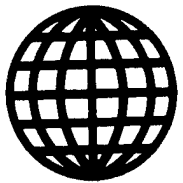


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JPRS Report

Soviet Union

Military Affairs

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Effective 1 June 1987 JPRS reports will have a new cover design and color, and some reports will have a different title and format. Some of the color changes may be implemented earlier if existing supplies of stock are depleted.

The new cover colors will be as follows:

CHINA.....	aqua
EAST EUROPE.....	gold
SOVIET UNION.....	salmon
EAST ASIA.....	yellow
NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA...	blue
LATIN AMERICA.....	pink
WEST EUROPE.....	ivory
AFRICA (SUB-SAHARA).....	tan
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....	gray
WORLDWIDES.....	pewter

The changes that are of interest to readers of this report are as follows:

USSR reports will become SOVIET UNION reports.

The USSR REPORT: NATIONAL ECONOMY will be titled SOVIET UNION/ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (UEA).

The USSR REPORT: POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS will be titled SOVIET UNION/POLITICAL AFFAIRS (UPA).

The following Soviet journals will be added to those which are already issued in separate series:

- EKO: ECONOMICS & ORGANIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (UEO)
- THE WORKING CLASS & THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD (UWC)
- PEOPLES OF ASIA & AFRICA (UAA)
- MILITARY HISTORY JOURNAL (UMJ)
- FOREIGN MILITARY REVIEW (UFM)
- AVIATION & COSMONAUTICS (UAC)
- SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES (USS)

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17 JUNE 1987

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SOVIET UNION MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

RESTRUCTURING IN FAR EAST MD AFTER GORBACHEV VISIT

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jan 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Col V. Filatov: "With the Force of Truth"]

[Text] During his visit to Khabarovsk the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, M. S. Gorbachev, met with command personnel of the Red Banner Far East Military District and gave some advice and recommendations pertaining to the decisive restructuring of work style and a radical improvement in military discipline, organization, and order. Several months have passed from the moment of that memorable meeting. How the moral atmosphere in the district is changing today and how the process of the people's comprehension of their personal contribution to the common matter is proceeding under the conditions of the restructuring is also related in the notes of our special correspondent.

Life shows: the old yields not one iota where good will is concerned. And the old is not an abstraction; it is a way of thinking, a psychology; it is the work style and an attitude toward matters and party and official duties of a person with a specific name, occupation, position, and authority.

Yes, I saw people who are trying to live in the old way, as if behind a high mountain, behind a high wall. But no one succeeds in escaping by sitting. Renewal is an irreversible process. And still. Here is a troop collective--a platoon, company, regiment, division.... But where do the changes begin? I heard the following opinion in one regiment:

"The lieutenant will not begin to improve himself if the major does not improve himself. The colonel will not begin to improve himself if the general does not begin to improve himself...."

Here we are not discussing a situation where someone commanded: "Begin to improve yourself!" We are discussing example, initiative, boldness and courage in the direct meaning of these words. The force of example is great. It lifts without words. The correct words are a force if they are backed up by such deeds and the entire way of life. Today, this acquires virtually decisive significance.

Here, for example, is how the district commander, Army General Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov, began the last training year. In the district there is a division which, according to 1985 indices, was adjudged as lagging not only on the scale of the district. At the beginning of the training year the commander visited it. He assembled all the company commanders. Why namely company commanders? Because it is right here that the primary troop collective is molded, and the bases of the state of discipline of a specific personality and a specific person are laid here (through this collective!).

So the commander assembled all company commanders of the division and literally announced the following: "I now report to you how I personally will structure my work and how I will work in this training year under conditions of the restructuring." And he reported for about two hours. And at approximately the same time the member of the military council and chief of the district's political directorate, Lieutenant General Viktor Alekseyevich Silakov, assembled the political officers for a talk with the following agenda: "How do we reform ourselves?" And he began to answer this question first, beginning with himself. All this was soon published on the pages of the district newspaper where it was also printed that the "question of the course of reform in the work of the officers and generals..." was discussed and the chief of the political directorate and member of the district's military council was the first to speak and answer questions.

Restructuring--this is new relations between people. What does new mean? This means closer, franker, and more understandable than yesterday. For example, General V. Silakov arrived at a remote regiment. And in this regiment, as they say, the commander does not get on well with pedagogy. He is a little weak in the science of indoctrination. One can begin to indoctrinate the indoctrinator in various ways. This time the general proceeded as follows: in the evening he visited the home of that same regimental commander. Yes, they drank tea. Yes, they talked. Also at the same table was the wife of the regimental commander--a teacher. At the same table was the wife's mother--a teacher. Such pedagogical strength, as they say, under one roof. Why not apply it to the matter? How? And here a talk about this took place until late at night--about mutual understanding in the officer family, about mutual assistance, about the ability to consult with one another and live with the concerns of a person who is close to you....

During his meeting with command personnel in Khabarovsk, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev asked the commander about the matter of discipline. The commander confessed in reply that discipline in the district had not improved recently and had even worsened in individual units and subunits. He presented accurate figures. Hundreds of officers and dozens of generals attended this talk. Now this talk is called in the district nothing other than a lesson of truth.

Later, after the commander's talk with the company commanders, a thorough critique of the reasons for the discipline situation which developed in the district took place and a talk on ways to improve matters occurred. I can testify that there was not even a hint of a dressing down. People were directed toward honest and selfless labor. It was especially noted that at first even numbers--the quantity of violations--can jump into the reports. But no one should be afraid of this. One should fear something else: when everything is normal on paper,

but in fact--alas. Not to know the true state of affairs is just like rushing headlong into battle without reconnaissance, without any knowledge of the enemy in front of you. It is starting on a journey blindfolded.

...It is the office of Lieutenant Colonel N. Tashlov. He is the deputy commander of a large unit. The commander is away. Tashlov is performing his duties.

"I judge by our large unit," says the lieutenant colonel. "Eyewash is a little less. We are eradicating it. Although the desire to present oneself in the best light has not passed. Why has embellishment decreased?" Tashlov asks again. "I speak frankly: it became more difficult to engage in this. It makes no difference, the truth is learned," the lieutenant colonel pronounces neither delightedly nor puzzled.

In the conversation, it is learned why it became more difficult to embellish reality. For example, the district commander arrives in the division and immediately--to the barracks, to the range, to the combat vehicle motor pool. His conversation there with the soldiers and sergeants is straightforward, about matters as they are. Trust the division commander's report, district commander, but re-check it with the opinion of the private soldier; then, make your decision and form your opinion of one commander or another. People now learn of the district commander's stay in the division not from rumors, but from personal meetings with him because, being in the division, the commander is always on his feet where there are people, where combat training is conducted, where the soldiers rest, eat, and sleep. Approach him, ask questions, listen to how he answers others. The rule has been established: the reception hours of the district commander begin when he crosses the threshold of the traffic regulating point of the division or regiment. He receives directly on the street someone for whom it is burning hot. This happened many times. Rumors about this spread through the district. And how else can one understand closeness to people.

But nevertheless, Lieutenant Colonel Tashlov did not speak the whole truth: It became not so much more difficult to "invent" as more dangerous, and it became more dangerous to push any "falsification" "upward." It is not needed there, and therefore they now punish for it in the most merciless manner. But about this below.

Being in the districts, I heard that as soon as the commander took off to check the barracks, there is a stream of whispers: it is not the district commander--it is a sergeant major. As soon as the commander set out to check the soldier's food, the quantity and quality, there is a stream of whispers: it is not the commander but the mess officer. As soon as the commander set out to check how the officers live in the Officers Clubs, behind the back: it is not the commander--it is a worker from the billeting unit.... What is the source of this? Who is whispering? The opinion of any chief attained by his own feet and his own eyes is death for the loafers, varnishers, and eyewashers.

It is clear to anyone: the commander is unable, as they say, to look into all holes. And we are speaking not of how a leader of such rank should control a tremendous mass of people. You can't be everywhere--this is clear. We are also discussing the striving to know the true state of affairs through those who are on the initial step of the service ladder. We are discussing the work style which is inconceivable without constant contact with people. By the way,

the member of the military council and chief of the district's political directorate considered it his duty and the duty of all personnel of the political directorate who visit the units and subunits that they must receive visitors. Mandatory and every day. Upon return to the political directorate--a report: who was received, on what question, but the main thing--what he did and what assistance he rendered to people and the matter. And again, the main thing here is the leader's personal example.

Teachers give lessons. Lessons in truth are also given by those who teach.... A soldier went absent without leave. Information about this reached the regimental commander. It arrived and there--it disappeared, as if it did not exist. And time rushed along. The company commanders adopted, as they say, their own very local measures, but it was not the case where they could get by with their own "home-made" means. It was necessary to adopt measures at the scale of the division commander or even of the district commander. But the regimental commander persistently remained silent. He hid. Everyone hoped that it would pass by. And meanwhile, while absent without leave the soldierly grossly violated public order. There was no longer anything to hide. And the regimental commander naively spread his hands: he said that he had no way of knowing, that he didn't know and his subordinates did not report. Everyone but the regimental commander was punished. At a party meeting the platoon, company, and battalion commanders were excluded from the party.

And documents concerning the exclusion of three officers from the party lay on the desk of Lieutenant General V. Silakov. The next morning he with these documents was in the regimental disposition area. Why, I asked him.

"I simply did not believe it. You see, I know what kind of regiment this is and how it lives. And really, how could I exclude them without looking into the matter personally?"

And here is the picture which the general discovered when he looked into this matter personally: the regimental commander knew everything, in the regiment everyone knew about the absence without leave but they remained silent, and covered up, and later they underwent punishment and raised their hands to exclude their comrades from the party.... There is mutual responsibility for you, that's how deeply the vice of concealment ate away. It was necessary for the general to teach a lesson of truth. And the regimental commander received both severe party and just as severe official punishment....

I spoke with that regimental commander. He was embarrassed. He was shaken by the turn of affairs. As if he burned himself against what he always considered cold.

I spoke with that battalion commander and company commander and I conversed with the regimental political deputy. Why did they cover up? They were convinced that even now everything will pass. For the regimental commander himself proposed keeping silent. He'll get out of it and later he will help the others to get out of it. What is more, you land among the agreeable, among the reliable, among your own who "won't sell." The higher the level at which the concealment is accomplished, the greater the evil which it brings because the greater the number of people dragged into the lie and deceit. And the higher the level at which the lesson of truth is accomplished, the more restructuring combat soldiers who are acquired.

When the military leader faces several enemy fortresses which are equal in force and might, with which one is it best to begin the assault? The wise ones suggest: with the strongest. If the strongest falls, the others will themselves surrender at discretion. It goes without saying that tactics are an important matter. In war some fortresses, in peacetime--others. But they are there. They must also be taken. And there is no getting by without tactics here, either. Why did the district commander go namely to his most lagging division, to the companies of his most lagging division? For the same reason as the military leader who, of all the fortresses, begins to assault the strongest--eject the commander from the breakthrough of the weakest and the stronger ones alongside will be inspired and enthusiasm and faith in their strength will be increased in them.

In the district, everyone knows this division: the district commander virtually took it under his personal guardianship and it seemed to become a matter of honor for him. They chuckled. Because it had been known for a long time what is occurring with the division which the district commanders are taking under their personal guardianship. They must become excellent. They chuckled....

In the division the entire material and technical training base was modernized in the shortest time and all combat equipment was repaired. Personnel problems were thoroughly examined. It turned out that here some used to stay in the same post for 10 or 12 years. What else was done? They repaired the boiler rooms and made capital repairs to the sewer system in the cantonment, looked over the electric substation, repaired the water pumping station, built a guardhouse, renovated roofs, equipped drying rooms and utility rooms for the soldiers, repaired the soldiers' messes.... We will be frank: it is not quite so simple to conduct such work without the personal participation of the district commander.

But then the time for checking, the time to sum up the results, approached. And it was necessary for no one other than the district commander himself to do this. And it turned out that it was as if he was to grade himself. Such "experiments" had already occurred in life in other places. They always ended brilliantly--with grades no lower than "good" and, most often, with "fives." But here the division received only a general "satisfactory."

Some will smile--they say, that is all? And again one must speak of the lessons, of the lessons of truth. You see, three's differ. One can give a division a satisfactory and not be confident. And one can give a division a satisfactory and tomorrow throw the division into the very hell, and it will function reliably, like all of them, not the least bit worse than the others. This is the kind of three that that division has today. The district commander gave a two to one of the division's subunits. Everyone knew that, as they say, he could recheck this subunit and...as is the custom, pull it up to "satisfactory." But the district commander did not undertake this, and some people obligingly proposed that this be done, to which there was a reply which they know in the entire district.

"It is better if I blush for this two in front of the Minister than in front of the people of the division...."

He demonstrated his devotion to the truth. It and only it is dearest of all for him.

Conscientiousness adorns people of all ranks. The district commander did not think of himself--he thought of the title of communist, of that indoctrinational force which is contained in each deed, in each word which he said. One regimental commander said this to me in a conversation about this case: "If the commander places himself in this manner for the sake of truth, then God himself ordered me to do it. And really, after this how can I act against my conscience. No, it is better to die of shame than to hold back the truth...."

The truth is needed. The entire truth, and not half, and not part of it. If the district commander cannot live without the truth and only the truth, then not one commander in this district can live without it any longer. I have often seen the district commander come forth and speak and conduct talks with various categories of servicemen and with commanders of various ranks.

Today the officers of the directorates and the headquarters of the district spend immeasurably more time with the troops than, let us say, a year ago. Each week the chiefs of the directorates report: where and what was done by them personally among the troops and by the personnel of the directorates and headquarters of the district whom they direct. Those who travel out to the troops are required not only to disclose shortcomings, but to eliminate them on the spot. Only this is taken into consideration. At each session of the military council it is mandatory to make an analysis of the work among the troops by various leaders of directorates and their deputies. How was it? Some chief sent a telegram to the troops and sits in the office and composes the next one. Today it is not like this: if he sent a telegram to the troops, travel there right after it and see that all your instructions were realized and that it is not a piece of paper which remains of it among the troops but an actual trace.

"And it is even better when they proceed with a document as follows," says the district chief of staff, Lieutenant General M. Moiseyev. "They work it out, and then they take it in hand and go to the troops. This, I tell you, reduces the time for the passage of paper to the lower elements. I am personally for seeing that the very minimum number of officers remain in our offices and at the desks and papers and ensure the control of the troops and that the remainder go to the companies, to the battalions, and to the regiments and work there. When a district staff officer works in a regiment, there the style of all staff work immediately improves, as they say, tremendously in the sense of professionalism and military competence. And one more aspect: with such a work style no one will begin to write excess paper. By the way, there is a regulation. And there is no need to propagate papers which repeat and explain it and regulations which are clear and mandatory for all as it is. We try to confirm this work style at all levels."

Of course, the prolonged staying of the leading personnel of the district's directorates and staff among the troops is, as is believed here, a pleasing fact. However, as often still happens: some supervisor visited a regiment and there the state of affairs did not even improve. I began to speak of this with the member of the military council and chief of the district's political directorate.

"We now have interesting processes taking place," said V. Silakov. "Just yesterday which member of the political directorate was in a leading role? The one who could 'disclose' and 'discover' and report the fact 'upward.' But now, of course, one should also 'disclose' and 'discover' as resolutely as possible, but today this alone is not enough. And just which member of the political directorate emerges in the leading role under these conditions? The one who possesses analytical thinking. Not to state a fact of scandalous practices, but to eliminate the conditions which engender these scandalous practices."

It is, of course, the sign of reforming. But if now the member of the political directorate teaches people among the troops more and more, on the ground, then someone should also teach the member of the political directorate to work in a new manner.

I talk on this subject with the deputy chief of the district's political directorate, Major General V. Kirichenko:

"We began to analyze the return from our work among the troops. As they say, we press on an increase in the number of trips, but however much we desire it, an improvement in the state of affairs does not ensue. What is the reason? Analyses showed--the procedure for work among the troops was poorly developed with us. In other words, the time required that each of us rise to a new stage of methodological skill, to a new stage of thinking. You see, this is what happened: you travelled, jotted shortcomings into a notebook-- and you're on a white horse. We understood that those times had ended. Where to begin? With the main thing--with the person, with our inspector. We proceeded from the obvious: we can increase the number of detached missions [TDY], and we can improve the professional qualities of the inspectors. In other words, the time had come to work differently.

"Here are if only all those TDY's. We began to inform about them, for example, a month or two or more in advance. Any 'all hands on deck!' and any hurry-scurrying in work is the reverse side of eyewash and embellishment. During this period, in the units calm, planned work proceeds without 'all hands on deck!' and haste. And the inspectors and instructors themselves prepare for the trip to the troops. In the political directorate, they try to convert this time into a school of training for those travelling out to the troops. A combined group is created. Even if this group is travelling to work in a battalion or regiment-- it is led by a general. Here it is he who prepares the entire group for the TDY. Each one receives an individual assignment from the group leader. He also works it out in the preparatory period, as they say, in the features and details, that is, he begins with himself. In the units, they now await more and more from the district not gloomy inspectors, but intelligent assistants."

Those with whom the members of the political directorate of the combined group work are not later called for the hearing of reports in Khabarovsk. The critique and listening to reports takes place on the spot. The results are summed up, as a rule, at party meetings, too. There is logic in this. Although it is not worthwhile to flatter oneself very much. What is even the most improved procedure? Only the planned way. But every way should be covered. And all the obstacles are here.

One more primary concern in the district is to raise the role of the party secretary and to concentrate the efforts of the party organizations on the political and moral indoctrination of the communists and change and ennoble their inner life. Today, one can say, everything depends on the harmonious work of the commander, the political deputy, and the party secretary. A weak regimental commander was replaced by a strong one. But things did not improve. They replaced the political deputy. Changes for the better appeared. Accountings and elections arrived in time. A new secretary headed the party organization. And in another month the regiment became completely different. And now, when the conversation turns to it in the collective, they say: "The commander, political deputy, and secretary work harmoniously there." It is true, the main figure who brings about order in the regiment is the regimental commander. Therefore, the district commander and the military council today distinguish as a special problem the improvement of the work style of the leader personnel in rendering assistance to the officers of the regimental echelon. A system has been introduced for working with regimental commanders who were appointed to these posts only recently. They are taught the organization of the entire life of the personnel strictly according to the regulation on the basis of the best units. There are shifts. But there is also something else. There still are many leaders who painstakingly substitute administration for indoctrinational work. One of the regimental commanders already has several punishments and not one has been rescinded. As the regimental commander is indoctrinated, so does he indoctrinate his subordinates. The following results from such indoctrination were discovered in one of the regiments--more than 80 percent of the officers turned out to be "hit" with punishments which were administered to them by the regimental commander. Being overwhelmed like this, even a person with a strong character doubts his strength and capabilities. Or he becomes accustomed to it. Demands should also be imposed on the party organization for such distortions in indoctrination.

They told me convincingly that the question of questions is increasing independence, the independence of the Komsomol organizations. Without this, there can be no serious talk of strengthening the troop collectives. Different types of youths arrive. In the platoon today there are not even five of the very same nationality. Standing alongside a soldier with a higher education in formation today is a soldier who has a poor knowledge of the Russian language. But they should understand each other literally at once under army conditions. For the present, the arsenal for influencing the youth which is had by the Komsomol organizations of the subunits is poor in content and forms and Komsomol information concerning the needs, demands, and attitudes of the youth is poorly provided--everybody realizes this in the district. They began firmly, and all at once--there is no turning....

"There are enough problems," says the district commander. "And, perhaps, one of the main ones is that not all leaders understood that we are living in an era of truly revolutionary transformations of our entire society. Some continue to 'study the situation' and observe who is punished today for the truth, who is relieved of his post for openness, and who will not receive a promotion in service for frankness. And someone is still afraid to begin to live in the new manner. He strives to do everything in the old manner.... The problem is to overcome the psychology, to overcome the stereotype of thought. And this is very difficult. Each one knows this himself. And here it is necessary to overcome

not only oneself, but also others.... Some fear openness like the devil fears holy water. If we retreat here, we lose much."

Yes, we must talk about the courage of the leader of any rank. Today the most short-sighted are beginning to understand that the struggle for introducing order in the regiments and for firm military discipline begins with the struggle against concealment and daubing over and for the disclosure of the true situation both with military discipline and with the combat readiness of the unit and subunit.

Of course, for the present, perhaps, it is early to speak of fundamental changes. However, there are shifts for the better here. They are at least in the fact that an overall reduction occurred in comparison with last year in the number of violations of military discipline; this pertained especially to gross violations. The trend toward an improvement in the quality of combat training appeared. Shifts of this type are also observed in other elements of the complex control organism of the district. And not only in the Far East District is this occurring, but also in other districts and groups of forces and in the fleets. Today, it is impossible to speak of restructuring as a whole without radical changes in work style. And it is very necessary that this first experience find support from the subunit element and higher and that with each passing day restructuring acquires ever more sincere, convinced, and effective adherents. Restructuring is too serious a matter. People have seen so many different campaigns. It is necessary that they believe in irreversibility. It is necessary to begin with the rudiments--to teach to speak the truth, to teach to look truth in the eye, to evaluate the state of affairs realistically. However, this dense method of "give--give" is still in vogue among the tenacious. But today you will not go far on this alone. You will not force everyone to live in the new manner by any order. It is necessary that this new becomes more obvious than the old for everyone. And you see, even today, for example, a regiment in which two incidents are listed is better than one in which there are three. And this means--the sluices for showing-off are wide open.

For today, too, relying on formal indices we place the capabilities of two collectives on one board. Sometimes we do not want to see the difference between the soldier who serves, let us say, in Sochi, and the soldier who serves, let us say, in Magadan. And this again means--the emasculation of the person from the system of grades, and here the show-off always gains the upper hand. And today, you see, we still encounter cases where a regiment which for a long time considered itself satisfactory is suddenly amazed by "surprises." So who considered it to be a satisfactory one and according to what indices? Is it necessary to have much mental expenditures to name as best the regiment in which there is one fewer incident?

The truth--this is what is especially important today. And it is difficult to attain. And closer to the goal is the one who is closer to people and who strives to be among them and with them. Today only the strength of truth can carry people along and only with the force of openness can we assert the new style of work and way of thinking--of our entire life.

6367

CSO: 1801/139

HEATING FAILURE IN SEVEROMORSK DUE TO 'IRRESPONSIBILITY'

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by Capt-Lt P. Ishchenko: "After the Breakdown"]

[Text] They were the years when the cold on the Kola Peninsula reached even greater values than this winter. But during the past six decades the retention of the hardest frosts for several weeks in a row was not observed. At the bus stops in Severomorsk it was necessary to install cut iron barrels and, alongside them, to lay firewood so that passengers awaiting transportation could start a fire and warm themselves at least a little next to it. But the street is one thing, and a breakdown in the heating system of homes is quite another....

So just what happened?

In the inquiry report concerning the disruption of heat supply in Severomorsk and the measures adopted to eliminate the aftereffects, it says in particular: "On 4 April at 1910 hours, as a result of a brief drop in voltage in the power supply system, there occurred the triggering of the protection on the electromechanical units and the water pumping stations of the first and second gradients, which led to the stopping of some of the units.... By 1000 hours on 5 January the supply of water in the containers had not increased, and a threat of the failure of the water- and heat supply of Severomorsk was created. At 1500 the order was given to drain the heat-transfer liquid from the residential buildings...altogether the heat carrier was drained in 166 homes, 2 schools, and 4 children's preschool institutions."

The commission created in the fleet for the elimination of the breakdown's after-effects adopted all measures so that the residents of the apartments who were left without heat were placed under acceptable conditions. Since the breakdown was reflected primarily in the homes located on the cone-shaped hills, many residents moved to the lower part of the city to friends who were ready to receive them. About 300 people occupied rooms in the "Vayenga" Hotel which were offered to them free of charge. Dozens of families were received on board the diesel ship "Mariya Yermolova" and large landing ships which approached the piers. Some of the residents were located in the preventorium of the fleet's air forces and the Pioneers' House or travelled to Murmansk and other cities. Some of the public catering enterprises changed over to the round-the-clock work mode. The population was provided with hot food three times a day and necessary commodities. In short, concern was first displayed for the people who were temporarily without a roof over their heads. And a real battle for housing itself was begun.

Operational staffs were created with the housing management offices. They assumed the direction of the operations of the organizational repair brigades and specially created groups from among personnel of the fleet enterprises, organizations, and institutions. Personnel of the coastal units and ships were used in the work. Great assistance was rendered by the party and soviet organs of the cities of Murmansk, Monchegorsk, and Polyarnyy which sent brigades of highly qualified specialists in addition to the necessary materials and tools.

Work did not stop for even one hour. Being in a hard freeze, people displayed the highest skill and selflessness. In the city operations headquarters they gave me a great number of names of those who are making the contribution within their powers to the common cause. Perhaps, they had the highest respect here for the subordinates of officers V. Nazarenko and A. Labunets who, together with the personnel of the pipeline subunit under the command of Lieutenant Colonel A. Nazim, at 40 degrees below zero laid two water conduit lines, each about two kilometers in length, to feed the boilers of the central heating plant. In which regard, they accomplished this in an unthinkable short time, exceeding the corresponding standards five-fold. Laboring as shock workers were specialists of Severovoyenmorstroy [Northern Fleet Construction Directorate], the subordinates of Captain 1st Rank S. Lebedev, personnel of the floating shop commanded by Captain-Lieutenant V. Kharitonov and of ship-repair enterprises, and representatives of the "Severonikel" [expansion unknown] combine. Active participation in the most rapid putting of the homes which had thawed out into service was had by the residents themselves who quickly recovered from confusion. Thanks to the rapid rates of work, already by the morning of 13 January the situation had improved substantially. More than 70 percent of the residential buildings and all schools and kindergartens were reconditioned and connected to the heat supply system. By today the remaining houses have been connected to the heat supply system and heated.

Just what are the reasons for the breakdown?

"It is premature to speak of final conclusions," relates the chairman of the commission for eliminating the aftereffects of the breakdown, Vice Admiral F. Gromov. "But some reasons can be mentioned even now. They are the worn-out state of the water-pumping equipment and other technical equipment and the lack of sufficient spare parts. And the most important reason--the irresponsibility of responsible officials whose duties included the operation of the central heating plant and the water- and heat supply systems. It must be acknowledged that the monitoring of their activity was weak and ineffective. The TETs [heat and power plant] broke down, it stated in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, because of the negligence and carelessness of responsible officials in preparing the city's municipal services for winter. Our carelessness."

Many of those who bear responsibility for what happened in Severomorsk have already been punished. Demands will be made of others later. The activity of the naval engineer service headed by Colonel S. Pykhach will also be evaluated with all strictness after completion of the renovation work. However, even now, completely obvious is the guilt of chief of section of the MIS [naval engineer service] of the Severomorsk garrison, Lieutenant Colonel V. Mager, who permitted the overloading of the water pumping station and did not adopt sufficient measures to create a reserve system for feeding water to the central heating station. For

these and other omissions the chief engineer of the OMIS [department of the military engineer service], Captain-Lieutenant O. Yefremov, should share responsibility with him. The deputy chief of the fleet's MIS for operation, Colonel B. Khanukov, was not equal to the task of monitoring preparation of the materiel of the Severomorsk department of the MIS for winter.

The situation was aggravated by the circumstance that there is no single chain of command in the city's housing and municipal services. The garrison OMIS and the corresponding services of the gorispolkom also have their own housing management offices. "The matter is reaching a ridiculous stage," relates the chief of one of the housing management offices, V. Gruzlov. "Let us assume that a water pipe connects two buildings: one city and the other OMIS. If the pipe suddenly begins to leak, there will be no end to the quarrels over who is to repair it...."

Nor can we fail to tell about such a problem as the "survivability" of buildings being designed and constructed for the Arctic and, what is more, specially for the Northern Fleet. Many residents are complaining that the nine-story buildings, primarily those now being erected in Severomorsk, are very cold.

"The fact is that these buildings were intended for a temperature of -26 degrees," explains the chief of the fleet's planning organization, Colonel N. Pazhitnov, "and Severomorsk is located in just such a climate zone."

Just how are these 26 degrees determined? The coldest winter five-day period is taken and the mean value is derived. But we recalled with Nikolay Maksimovich that both in this and in preceding years there were also colder five-day periods, and especially this winter, when the thermometer column did not rise above the -30 degree mark for a week. So how can it be considered that the houses of series 78 which are being built in Severomorsk correspond to the actual and not to any theoretical calculated climatic conditions?

And again about residential buildings. Only this time about others--those which the Murmansk construction organizations are erecting on Severnaya Zastava Street on order of the capital construction directorate headed by Colonel A. Naumov. These buildings are being heated by heating radiators built into the walls. I visited two of them. A sad spectacle. The radiators burst under the pressure of the ice and carried away fairly large chunks of the wall.

"I would like to look at the one who conceived of building such houses here in the eye," says N. Kirova in a fit of temper. "We are always cold in our apartments."

But why did the buildings of this project in Murmansk present themselves in a good light? It turns out that at the exit at the boiler room in Murmansk the temperature reaches 130 degrees. And this is sufficient to maintain the optimum temperature regime in the apartments. But here, in Severomorsk, the boiler room provides 90 degrees in the best case, which clearly is insufficient.

The elimination of the aftereffects of the breakdown in the heat- and water-supply nets of the city of Severomorsk is basically completed.

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U.S. SOVIET WAR VETERANS RECALL ELBE MEETING

PM121119 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 May 87 First Edition p 3

[Report by Lieutenant General V. Orlov, retired: "Loyalty to the Spirit of the Elbe"]

[Text] A group of U.S. World War II veterans headed by Prof W. Robertson, president of the "Elbe meeting union," has been in our country at the invitation of the Soviet War Veterans' Committee. Forty two years ago Second Lieutenant W. Robertson was one of the first U.S. officers to hold out his hand to a Soviet serviceman on the bridge across the Elbe in Torgau on 25 April 1945. Subsequently Robertson was awarded the Order of Aleksandr Nevskiy.

Other veterans also made up the delegation--E. Parsons, Ch. Forrester, R. Shenk, I. Sems, and R. Khaag [all names as transliterated]. D. Kelly--daughter of the well-known U.S. war veteran and fighter for peace A. Kotsebu [name as transliterated], who died recently--and B. Robertson, representing the younger generation of Americans and continuing the traditions of their fathers who participated in the meeting on the Elbe, came with them to the Soviet Union.

The U.S. veterans visited Leningrad and Tallinn where they toured memorial sites connected with the Soviet people's heroic struggle in the years of the Great Patriotic War. "The visit to Piskarevskoye Cemetery shook us," E. Parsons said. "We shall always remember the tremendous sacrifices in human life made by the Soviet Union in the name of delivering mankind from Nazism."

The U.S. guests' visit to Moscow had a full program. They visited the Soviet War Veterans' Committee, the Central Museum of the USSR Armed Forces, where they looked round an exhibition dedicated to the historic meeting on the Elbe, and a Moscow school. A veterans' "round table" meeting was held, dedicated to the theme of loyalty to the spirit of the Elbe.

"The trip to the Soviet Union has been a great honor and memorable event for us," W. Robertson stated. "We have many friends here, and we have kept in

touch with them for 42 years now. We were together in the war against fascism and we will remain together in the struggle for a better future for all peoples."

Loyalty to the oath taken on the Elbe is confirmed in the joint statement adopted by the Soviet and U.S. veterans.

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ARMED FORCES

BRYANSK OBKOM 1st SECRETARY ON IMPROVING PREDRAFT TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by A. F. Voystrochenko: "Readiness for Military Service"]

[Text] Recently at a session of the council on military-patriotic indoctrination and training of the youth for military service in the Armed Forces which was created with the party obkom we analyzed the results of the autumn call-up campaign. The conversation turned out to be important and exacting. And this is understandable: the autumn call-up is of a special nature. It was the first one after the adoption by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers of a decree directed toward a further improvement in the training of the youth for military service. Therefore, we should consider the results of the call-up campaign, the moral-political and psychological tempering and the knowledge and skills with which the young draftees departed for the units and ships, as a report on the accomplishment of the decree. It is precisely from such positions that we approached an evaluation of what had been done.

Yes, in comparison with past results the preparation of the youth for service as a whole became higher. The youngsters of the last call-up have firmer knowledge of military affairs, practical skills, and stronger physical tempering.

However, it should be said directly: the results of the call-up campaign did not bring complete satisfaction. Not everything planned was achieved and not everywhere were the possibilities which the oblast has available for the quality organization of predraft training utilized locally in full measure.

And these possibilities are many. Only recently we have had 175 new shooting galleries constructed. In the oblast there are about 450 museums and rooms of combat glory and more than 200 military-patriotic clubs. Nor can we fail to consider that our Bryansk area is a special region; it is famous for its revolutionary, combat, and partisan glory. It is a region where every foot of soil would seem to breath with heroic history. Then why, with such possibilities, did the final results, as the last call-up showed, prove to be high far from everywhere? Why, for example, do the pupils of the production directorate imeni V. I. Lenin, the "Bryansk Machine-Building Plant," the Ivot glass works, the Starodub "Bolshevik" kolkhoz, and the Karachev general educational school, one can say, traditionally depart for service thoroughly prepared and glorify their collectives with their exemplary soldierly labor while primary military training nevertheless hobbles along among many envoys of other enterprises, educational

institutions, and kolkhozes? Why do only one or two people each enter the military schools from some of the schools, SPTU's [agricultural vocational and technical school] and tekhnikums from year to year?

The members of the council posed for themselves these and other questions with all directness and devotion to principle at its last session and tried to answer them thoroughly and with all frankness. With an analysis of the reasons and with the indication of specific errors and specific culprits. With the appropriate conclusions. And the chief thing among them--the necessity for a decisive restructuring in the organization of the predraft training of the youth, too.

Recently we have adopted many good, substantiated decisions which oblige us to much. And if we were able to achieve their implementation everywhere many shortcomings and problems simply would exist no longer. But the trouble is just that in a number of places these decisions just remained only on paper.

A little more than a year ago one such decision was adopted at a plenum of the obkom where the question of a further improvement in party leadership of the activity of the DOSAAF organizations was discussed. Encouraging reports arrived from the raykoms: the decisions are being implemented successfully. But then, recently a combined check was conducted in the Trubchevskiy Rayon, and it turned out that not everything conforms to reality here. There are more than 2,000 combat veterans in the rayon, and military-patriotic work is conducted basically only before "red-letter" days, and leaders of the rayon, members of the Znaniya [Knowledge] society, and personnel of the military commissariat seldom meet with the youth. There are no close contacts and unity in the actions of the organs and organizations which are responsible for the indoctrination and predraft training of the youth. The DOSAAF raykom just did not become the organ for collective direction of the primary defense organizations and in the organizations themselves work is frequently conducted formally. And more than enough such "notes" were gathered. And hence, the low final result.

I should also like to touch on the following very important question. As is known, military-patriotic indoctrination cannot be effective today if it is conducted without consideration of the increased complexity of military service, if it does not assume the purposeful molding, in the rising generation, of a clear notion of the directions of military danger and the reasons for military tension, and if it is separated from the specific requirement of the Armed Forces. If the indoctrinators themselves are not imbued with a sense of personal responsibility for the training of the youth for service and do not have a clear notion of what the draftee is and the military training with which he should depart for the units and ships today.

In this connection, I present the following fact. About 35 percent of the oblast's military instructors are warrant officers [praporshchik], sergeants, and privates of the reserve. As they say, the figures need no comments. Of course, many of this number of military instructors are people who are devoted to their work; however, the lack of experience and professionalism cannot be replaced by anything else. Then why not open to them the broad road to knowledge in their selected specialty? But the situation today is such that the military departments of the pedagogical institutes do not have correspondence instruction. And the military instructors are forced to study in departments far from military affairs.

Each year one out of every four of them, having completed a higher educational institution and received the diploma of a teacher of physics, chemistry, or history, changes profession. And again a sergeant or private in the reserve comes to take his place, especially in the village. Is it not time for competent organs to ponder this question?

The turn for the solution of another task also arrives--the broader accustoming of the youth of early ages to military-patriotic work and military-technical knowledge. Life itself turns us to face this: with each passing day more and more military-patriotic clubs and other children's formations are appearing. And this is pleasing. The youngsters reach for a good, needed matter, preferring it to empty pastimes in the street. But bitterness also often is added to the sense of satisfaction which arises in connection with the appearance of such clubs: at times they are located in basements and dilapidated premises. And you automatically think: really, in building whole residential tracts of modern multiapartment houses can they not envisage special rooms for such clubs, too? Is this where we should economize? What is the result of such economizing?

Here, for example, is our DOSAAF aerosports club--the celebrated training organization of the defense society which has raised more than 20 Heroes of the Soviet Union. For the second year it is training pupils of the schools and vocational-technical schools for the flying and other professions. But only a small portion of those desiring to study in the ASK [aerosports club]. The club's capabilities do not permit meeting the children half way. A new training and sports complex has long been needed, and we still do not have it. For the second five-year period the plans of the military builders include the construction of the complex, and for the second five-year period they are not beginning to accomplish what has been prescribed.

Nor are things any better with the construction of the children-youth sports and technical club which is extremely necessary in Bryansk. There is the decision of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR and there are planning estimates. However, things are not moving.

I do not want to shift the blame for the problems which are existing in the oblast to the central departments. To a great extent, we locally are not displaying the proper persistence, efficiency, and initiative.

We are attentively following how this work is being conducted in Belorussia, in Rostov and Kuybyshev Oblasts, and in Kabardino-Balkaria. Much that is interesting and instructive is being done in these regions of the country. Why aren't we using it ourselves everywhere, why aren't we adopting these new things. And really, at times our own experience is not introduced.

I have already mentioned the "Bryansk Machine-Building Plant" production association and the youth which the celebrated collective sends to the service. And how work is conducted with the youth, how the general director, Artur Nikolayevich Chebrikov, organizes and directs it together with the party committee, and what forms and methods are given preference--of this, perhaps, little is known in the rayons. The party obkom has not seen that the experience becomes the property of other collectives.

Good experience has been accumulated in the party's Bryansk gorkom. Here, on the initiative of war veterans, an unofficial department of military-patriotic indoctrination has been created. Retired generals and officers V. Zhagala, G. Danilin, S. Ponomarchuk, and N. Lyubeznyy have assumed difficult labor--to help the party's gorkom to coordinate the work of the raykoms and ispolkoms and of other organs and organizations to analyze and monitor it locally. And we cannot fail to note: work with the youth was made more lively and began to throb after the department's creation. It would appear that there it is, the experience, take it, introduce it among yourselves, all the more since it was recommended to all party raykoms. But individual raykoms are delaying somewhat, scrutinizing, and temporizing.

And meanwhile, time marches on and work with the youth continues. In literally months the new replacements will depart for the combat formation. What kind will they be? This depends on each of us, on what we are doing and how we are laboring today, now.

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KULIKOV BACKS PACT-NATO CONTACTS IN VE DAY ARTICLE

PM111223 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 87 Morning Edition p 2

[IZVESTIYA correspondent interview with Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces, under the heading "For the Sake of World Peace" under rubric "9 May Is Victory Day"]

[Text] Question: You are concerned with people for whom Victory Day is not only a national celebration but also a personal one. You yourself have great experience of the front--from the USSR's western border, Rzhev, Vitebsk, and Riga to Gdansk and Wiesmar. How do you regard the historical significance of our victory--as a military commander and as a person?

Answer: Victory Day is perhaps dearer to Soviet people than any other holiday. May 9 has particular meaning and significance for those of us who fought at the front. On each anniversary of the great victory we turn our thoughts again to those distant days of spring 1945. We remember our friends and comrades-in-arms who fell in battle and with whom we shared the difficulties of field life in those hard years, the long months of waiting for letters from home, and the marches into battle. They honorably fulfilled their patriotic and international duty: They defended the freedom and independence of their socialist motherland and the cause of the October Revolution, worthily carried out their great mission of liberation, and saved world civilization. The great Communist Party led us to victory!

While grieving for those who died, we take pride in the fact that it was the Soviet people and its Armed Forces that made the decisive contribution to the defeat of fascist Germany. This victory was naturally a very striking symbol of the indestructible vital force of communism's great ideals and the triumph of the socialist way of life. It had the most profound effect on the entire course of world development. Our victory has never and, I am sure, will never become a thing of the past. Even today, if I can express it this way, it is working for peace and for socialism.

Question: How do you assess the significance of the experience of the joint struggle by the East European countries' patriotic forces against fascism in the years of the Great Patriotic War with regard to the development and strengthening of the Warsaw Pact armies' combat collaboration?

Answer: It goes without saying that this experience has great significance and is hard to overestimate. It has its roots in the early years of Soviet power. The glorious revolutionary traditions of proletarian internationalism were increased during the Great Patriotic War.

The combat alliance between the Soviet people and the fraternal peoples of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Albania developed and grew stronger in the heat of the fighting against fascism.

In 1944-1945 national liberation armies and partisans, as well as the foreign units and formations which took shape in the war years on USSR territory, fought shoulder to shoulder with our soldiers in a number of European countries.

The People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia, the Polish Army and Polish partisans, the Czechoslovak Army Corps, and Czech and Slovak partisans conducted combat operations in close collaboration with Soviet soldiers. After the fall of the monarchist-fascist regimes and the victory of antifascist uprisings in Romania and Bulgaria, the armies of these countries took part in the armed struggle against Hitler's Germany.

A considerable number of German antifascists fulfilled their international duty by taking up arms and fighting in the ranks of the Red Army and partisan detachments for the honor and freedom of their country.

The USSR Armed Forces acted on the basis of the principles of proletarian solidarity and the norms of international law and entered the territories of foreign countries in accordance with intergovernmental or international agreements. By the end of the war, the total number of personnel in the foreign formations put together with the USSR's assistance amounted to more than 550,000.

The all-round fraternal assistance given by the Soviet Union to the peoples of Central and Southeast Europe in the final stage of the war played an important role in the formation and strengthening of their national armies. These relations also served as the basis for the conclusion of the Warsaw Treaty and for the political and defense collaboration among its signatory states. The traditions of combat friendship born in those years live on in the Warsaw Pact armies today and reliably serve the task of training modern-day soldiers.

The practice of many years has made it possible to develop new, effective forms of cooperation aimed at ensuring steady growth in the combat readiness of each of the national armies and strengthening the combat collaboration of socialist countries as a whole.

A big role in strengthening this combat collaboration is played by the joint "Soyuz," "Shchit," and "Druzhba" exercises and the systematic exchange of experience, military-technical cooperation, and mutual assistance in the training of military cadres. The fraternal armies' combat alliance is still further reinforced on this basis.

Question: How do you assess our Armed Forces at the end of the eighties? How has Soviet military doctrine changed in this respect?

Answer: I will begin by answering the latter part of the question. Soviet military doctrine is unequivocally defensive. This was pointed out with new force at the 27th CPSU Congress. We intend to continue acting in the military sphere in such a way that no one can have reason for fears--even imaginary--for their own safety. But it is equally true that we and our allies would like to be free of the sensation of a threat hanging over us. The achievements of socialism must be reliably defended.

All work to improve our country's defense capability and strengthen its Armed Forces is carried out in accordance with this. In this respect we do not set ourselves the aim of surpassing or overtaking anyone in the military sphere. But as long as the United States and its allies in aggressive blocs continue their course aimed at achieving military superiority over us, we are forced to take the necessary measures to ensure that military-strategic parity between the Soviet Union and the United States and between the Warsaw Pact and NATO is preserved.

Everything that we have achieved in the military sphere at the end of the eighties is basically only our response to imperialism's aggressive intentions. The combat potential of the Soviet Armed Forces has grown immeasurably. In terms of personnel it is a sound blend of military expertise, good provision with equipment, ideological steadfastness, organization, discipline, and loyalty to their patriotic and international duty.

The scientific and technical revolution has sharply increased the pace of modernizing the Armed Forces. In the last 10-15 years, two-three generations of missiles have been replaced and a considerable proportion of the aircraft stock, submarines, surface ships, artillery, tanks, infantry and other weapons, and combat and special equipment has been renewed. The fifth generation of computers is now in use.

But the main thing is that our men have grown in stature. The Army and the Navy have been brought up to strength with remarkable personnel. Now almost 80 percent of all conscripts have higher or secondary education. This high standard of knowledge and technical ability makes it possible for soldiers and seamen to master combat expertise and acquire all the qualities of skillful defenders of the motherland in a short period of time.

Our military cadres are the backbone of the Army and Navy. Approximately 70 percent of our officers have higher military or specialized military education. This kind of staffing ensures that the tasks of improving troops' combat training and maintaining their high level of combat readiness are successfully fulfilled.

The good name of the Soviet Armed Forces is not only a matter of history. Today's soldiers build on the traditions of the Great Patriotic War heroes with their military achievements. As many as 75 soldiers have been awarded

the title Hero of the Soviet Union for their achievements while carrying out their international duty, and many others have been awarded orders and medals.

Soviet soldiers made a considerable contribution to eliminating the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES. Personnel have also set fine examples of military courage and valor in the course of their everyday training and service. This also is a natural continuation of the frontline fighters' traditions.

Question: Nuclear war in our time is senseless: It would lead to the destruction of all life on earth. What kind of role in this respect is given to the Army, Navy, and Air Force in the preservation of peace? Is it possible, in your opinion, to prevent the entry of arms into space and the deployment of the infamous SDI systems?

Answer: The course taken by imperialist reactionaries aimed at undermining the military-strategic balance and preparing for war stands in opposition to the policy of ensuring peoples' peace and security which is actively conducted by the Soviet Union and fraternal socialist countries.

The CPSU and the Soviet Government realistically appraise the degree of the danger of war emanating from imperialism. This danger is, unfortunately, great. But there is nothing fatally inevitable about war. It is possible to defend peace. The foreign policy activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state is geared to the solution of this task.

Our numerous peace initiatives and proposals are well known to the whole world. They were recently supplemented by new ones.

They were put forward by M.S. Gorbachev at the Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship meeting in Prague. In order to facilitate the conclusion of an agreement on removing medium-range missiles from Europe, our country has proposed to begin discussion of the question of reducing and subsequently eliminating missiles with a range of between 500 and 1,000 km sited on the European continent without linking the progress and outcome of talks on the medium-range missile problem with this; other initiatives have also been put forward. The Soviet proposals were explained and amplified during M.S. Gorbachev's reception of U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz.

The new Soviet initiatives, which sum up and generalize the peace-loving ideas and proposals of Warsaw Pact states, signify a comprehensive approach to the problems of reducing the risk of a nuclear conflict breaking out. They show a way out of the impasse and make it possible to unblock the situation at a number of talks.

Unfortunately, while verbally admitting the intolerability of a nuclear war, ruling circles in the United States and other imperialist states continue their material preparation for such a war. Dreams of world hegemony hold U.S. leading figures in thrall, and the SDI program has become President R. Reagan's main idea.

The process threatens to become irreversible. In this connection, the search for a solution which would guarantee against the arms race being taken into space is extremely important. We cannot allow SDI to be used as a stimulus to a further arms race or as an obstacle to radical disarmament.

Question: Now, despite all difficulties and differences in ideology, our party and government are trying to build good-neighborly relations with all countries, demonstrating tenacity, consistency, and patience in this respect. Are working contacts between the Warsaw Pact and NATO armed forces in the interests of peace possible in principle?

Answer: I do not rule out this possibility. Contacts are necessary. They are necessary in the interests of achieving a fuller and more correct understanding of the problems which have built up in relations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, reducing the mutual suspicion and mistrust, and making a substantial contribution to the common task of reducing tension in Europe and the world as a whole.

Some steps are already being taken in this direction. I am thinking of the mutual invitation of military observers to major ground forces exercises, prior notification of states' military activity, and the exchange of annual plans for military activity subject to notification between European states involved in the Stockholm Conference. Naturally, this is not enough. We are in favor of a deeper development of dialogue between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, involving the establishment of direct contacts between the two organizations, including the leaderships of the alliances' armed forces, for the purpose of achieving appropriate accords which would contribute to strengthening peace throughout the world.

With the aim of assisting the development of practical talks, the Warsaw Pact countries have proposed that meetings be held between working groups of experts from the Warsaw Pact and NATO on the questions of reducing armed forces and conventional arms in Europe, and between the commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces, the supreme commander of the NATO Allied Forces Europe, the general secretary of the Warsaw Pact Organization, and the general secretary of the North Atlantic alliance. But the NATO leaders have responded with silence.

Question: The whole country is busy restructuring. Our Armed Forces cannot remain on the sidelines of this process. What does this process entail for people in military uniform?

Answer: Yes, the country is restructuring; this process has affected every aspect of our lives in reality and not just in theory. It has also affected the Armed Forces. For military people, the restructuring process is primarily embodied in the new approaches to resolving the tasks of strengthening the Armed Forces and enhancing their combat readiness. We can no longer be satisfied with the old work forms and methods; in the present conditions they act as a brake on the development of the Army and Navy and sometimes lead to stagnation.

The restructuring process is moving slowly, however. The force of inertia is taking its toll. Every new step is taken with difficulty. We are still in the initial stages, where we are looking for the kind of measures and relations which would make it possible to reorient the thinking and psychology of the people who make up the vast collective of the Armed Forces.

We are now persistently trying to increase the party's influence on every aspect of life in military collectives. We are clearly aware of the complexity of the transition from words to practical implementation. The main emphasis in this issue is placed on properly organized verification of performance. Without this, we will have only the illusion of restructuring.

All military personnel--from enlisted man to marshal--must restructure. Everyone must work harder--this is the main thing. The party has put its trust in us and is counting on army cadres to resolve the tasks of strengthening the state's defense capability. We must justify this trust by our military work.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate all readers through your newspaper and particularly those who took part in the Great Patriotic War on this historic Victory Day celebration, and I would like to wish them good health and success in their fulfillment of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and in their peaceful, creative work.

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CSO: 1801/177

GENERAL MAKSIMOV INTERVIEWED ON VICTORY JUBILEE

PM121053 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 9 May 87 p 2

[Interview with Army General Yu.p. Maksimov, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of Strategic Missile Forces, by TASS correspondent M. Zakharchuk: "The Great Feat"--no place or date of interview given; first three paragraphs are SELSKAYA ZHIZN introduction]

[Text] The day of the victory over fascism is one of the most emotional of all the Soviet people's holidays. The war years were long and grim. There is not a single family in the land of the Soviets that did not experience the pain and sorrow of the loss of relatives or friends. The war inflicted colossal economic damage.

During the 42 years since the victory the Soviet people led by the Communist Party has achieved significant successes in the development of the economy, science, and culture and the boosting of prosperity. Now they are selflessly working on the solution of large and complex tasks involving the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development and the restructuring of all aspects of Soviet society's life. But our victory over fascism has not receded into the past, it also addresses the future--such is its great significance in history.

On the eve of Victory Day, TASS correspondent M. Zakharchuk interviewed Army General Yu.p. Maksimov, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of Strategic Missile Forces.

[Zakharchuk] Years pass, generations change but, for all honest people in the world, Victory Day remains an event of abiding value, the feat of the century. What is it, in your opinion, that determines this?

[Maksimov] First and foremost, mankind had never experienced a shattering event like World War II. A war waged over a sixty year period by 61 countries and involving the loss of 50 million human lives, the majority of whom--28 million--were civilians, can never be forgotten.

On the other hand, a historical phenomenon on such a scale is perceived more clearly and more deeply from the distance of time. At the start, and even at the end of the war, some people could possibly have perceived it as only a clash between two groupings of states, but now it is clear to any unprejudiced

person: The victory over Hitler's Germany and its allies meant the liberation of Europe's peoples from fascist slavery, the salvation of world civilization.

[Zakharchuk] The Soviet people are fully justified in holding that it was they and their Armed Forces that made the decisive contribution to the rout of fascist Germany. But some people in the West now claim that it was not the Red Army but the participation of the Western allies that determined the outcome of the war.

[Maksimov] Whenever I come across such distortions of the truth, I recall a statement by Winston Churchill, who could in no way be even suspected of being sympathetic toward our country and the Soviet system. "Future generations," he claimed, "will recognize the debt they owe to the Red Army as unconditionally as do we who survived to witness these magnificent victories.... It was the Russian Army that tore the guts out of the German war machine...."

But now the Western falsifiers of history are turning the facts upside down, deliberately lying and slandering our people and our Army. But this does not make facts cease to be facts. And here are the facts: The Soviet-German front saw the rout of 607 Wehrmacht divisions, while the allies defeated 176 fascist divisions. The Hitlerites lost in battles against the Soviet Army 10 million of their total losses of 13.5 million soldiers and officers. More than 70,000 aircraft--70 percent of the Luftwaffe's equipment--were destroyed on the Soviet-German front. There were 50,000 tanks and self-propelled guns destroyed, three-fourths of the entire pool. The same proportion also applies to artillery guns.

By the summer of 1944, when it became clear that the USSR would be able to crush the enemy with its own forces, the fascist command was forced to transfer more and more divisions from other fronts, withdraw them from occupied countries, and move them to the East. This created favorable conditions for success by the resistance movement in countries occupied by or dependent on fascist Germany, and also for operations by the allied Anglo-American forces which at long last launched the second front.

[Zakharchuk] In this context, one cannot but dwell on the Soviet Army's great liberation mission. What form did it take?

[Maksimov] The glorious revolutionary traditions of proletarian internationalism and international solidarity were augmented during the war years. In the course of the war, the fulfillment of the Soviet people's national tasks was organically combined with the performance of their international duty to other peoples who had been enslaved by the fascists.

Our army embarked directly on the liberation of Europe's peoples from the Hitlerite occupiers in 1944, when it crossed the borders into neighboring states. For over a year more than 7 million Soviet servicemen waged fierce bloody battles on the territories of these countries. Throughout World War II the Soviet Armed Forces liberated from the occupiers 13 states in Europe and Asia with a total population of about 200 million people.

The victory by the Soviet people and their Armed Forces in the Great Patriotic War has profound social roots. The Soviet people achieved not only a military, political, and economic victory but also an ideological victory over the enemy. The friendship of the USSR's peoples was a great source of victory. Finally, victory was ours because the Soviet people's struggle was headed by the Communist Party.

Our great victory had a most profound effect on the entire course of world development. The sphere of imperialism's dominance contracted, the world socialist system emerged. The disintegration of the colonial system was accelerated.

[Zakharchuk] Western reactionary propaganda claims that the subject of the last war is being deliberately kept alive in the Soviet Union. It is claimed that, by constantly reopening old wounds and simultaneously emphasizing the outcome of victorious battles, we are deliberately educating soldiers prepared to descent on the Western "free world" with drawn swords....

[Maksimov] And supposedly for this reason the West must constantly arm itself and not trust the Russians at all at talks; this will still produce nothing. An amazing lie, but in all fairness it must be said that it is rather prevalent, just like the myth about the "Soviet military threat" in general.

Let us start with the fact that it is impossible to forget the millions of fascism's victims, the hitherto unprecedented destruction, and the unheard of human suffering and torture, because any neglect of this memory would create conditions for the commission of new crimes.

As for our respectful and solicitous attitude toward the memory of the dead, it stems primarily from the innermost essence of socialist society, in which man and his life, health, and happiness constitute the most precious asset of the whole people. And how can we, who lost 20 million of our fellow citizens during the last war, even think about aggression?

[Zakharchuk] You have already mentioned some of the war's results. What are the main lessons from it?

[Maksimov] They make it incumbent upon us to constantly bear in mind the aggressive nature of imperialism, to enhance vigilance, to protect and augment the gains of socialism, and to rally in the struggle for peace. People must understand what is essentially a simple truth: The struggle against war must be waged before it has started.

I would also like to mention another very important lesson. It is impossible to crush our social system by force. The path of aggression taken by fascism would inevitably lead to the downfall of anyone who might encroach against socialism. Generally speaking, the world cannot be redivided by force. Any reliance on force, especially in our nuclear age, is equivalent to suicide. Qualitatively new thinking is necessary. This is why people all over the world now look with such hope at our country and show exceptional interest in the Soviet leadership's new constructive initiatives, whose main and sole purpose is to ensure the planet's peaceful and safe future.

[Zakharchuk] What, in your view is the abiding importance of frontline experience for today's generation of servicemen in the Soviet Armed Forces?

[Maksimov] For all of us, the victory was and remains a heroic accomplishment by a heroic people, a breeding ground for all our deeds, be they great or small.

Frontline experience is applied everywhere within our forces. Its application is particularly important at the time of the revolutionary restructuring which is under way in our society, in the Army and the Navy. Now, for example, just as during the years of the Great Patriotic War, the military cadres have to meet not only high political and efficiency demands, but also moral demands. Honesty, modesty, devotion to the cause--these are the qualities which must shape the image of today's commander and political worker.

Restructuring has demanded with objective urgency that servicemen's collectives are headed, just like in war time, but people who are not just intelligent, educated, and well skilled in military work, but by military leaders who stand out with their original and modern thinking.

I would like to say in conclusion that these and other problems set by restructuring will be definitely resolved. An atmosphere of strict exactingness and enhanced rigidity of criteria for the evaluation of achievements is being created in the Army and the Navy. The Soviet people can rest assured of their peaceful future--it is in the reliable hands of the heirs of those who gained the great victory.

/12913

CSO: 1801/177

ARMED FORCES

BRIEFS

DIVISION TO LEAVE MONGOLIA--In accordance with the decision of the Soviet leadership and by agreement with the government of the Mongolian Peoples Republic, in April-June of this year the withdrawal of one full-strength motorized rifle division and several separate units from among the Soviet troops which are located temporarily on the territory of the Mongolian Peoples Republic from Mongolia to the Soviet Union will be accomplished. [Text] [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jan 87 p 1] 6367

1801/139

GROUND FORCES

LOBOV ON ROLE OF COMMANDER

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 87 p 2

[Article by Col Gen V. Lobov: "It Begins With the Commander"]

[Text] To increase the responsibility of commanders, political workers, the entire officer corps, and party organizations of the army and navy for maintaining servicemen's high level of military discipline, their moral and ideological training, their combat and political readiness... How binding this requirement of the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee Plenum sounds for those in the military!

The plenum's provisions are directed towards every leader, including sole commanders. They obligate leaders to provide an example of ideological fortitude, strict observance of party and state discipline, competence, loyalty to one's word, honesty and decency, integrity, unpretentiousness, and intolerance of any deviations from socialist moral standards. They set the professional and moral level necessary to successfully conduct restructuring. The time of concessions and compromise, of tapping people on the shoulder in selecting and placing personnel, including military personnel, has been forever relegated to the past.

I would like first of all to make mention of one of the commanders in the Red Banner Central Asian Military District who have actively and creatively joined in the process of renewal and have directed all their efforts towards the common cause. Lt Col N. Petruk was recently promoted and assigned to a new duty station, but I know that every once in a while he calls back to the regiment he used to command. I am also aware of how ardently he followed the first steps of his successor. This is not difficult to understand--so much effort, so much emotional fervor had gone into the regiment which, prior to Nikolay Nikolayevich's arrival, had failed to distinguish itself through successes. This unit is today a foremost regiment known throughout the district.

To what does Lt Col Petruk owe his success? First and foremost it is to a businesslike attitude and selflessness in his work and the ability to rally people, to mobilize their efforts with the assistance of party and Komsomol organizations towards accomplishing charted goals. Petruk is what you might call a "military stone." I must admit--I once considered him unnecessarily

detached and dry. Senior leaders see him as an individual who wouldn't smile if he didn't have to. He becomes quite a different person, however, when he gets down into the trenches of a dug-in company or visits artillery firing positions, in short, where the outcome of the training battle is decided. I saw him once at a mountain test range with a gun crew that was soaked to the skin trying to extract a bogged-down vehicle. Petruk had just pulled up to the area but he already had a shovel in his hands and was energetically assisting the crew. What could the lieutenant do who was up until then standing off to the side but throw off his rain cape and get to work as well.

I have not had occasion to see Lt Col Petruk at a party meeting or party committee conference. But I have heard from others that he makes wholehearted presentations and is highly exacting of others, including his deputies. He does not condone the slightest negligence, carelessness or, most of all, indifference to people. And today it is said justifiably that Petruk set the tone for reconstruction in the regiment through the severe demands he made of himself and the high degree of exactingness he affirmed in the party organization. The unit successfully completed its past training year and has begun the current one rather well.

Perhaps I've gotten carried away with my story about Lt Col Petruk. But I wanted to stress what is most important in his work style--a striving to achieve a high level of final result, a priority of actions over words.

And when the words rang out at the January CPSU Central Committee Plenum about how important it is to act right away--to act and act again, aggressively, boldly and creatively--my mind turned automatically to Lt Col Petruk. It is precisely people like him, like Aviator Lt Col Yu. Shamarin, Armor Maj V. Maleta and Guards Artillery Capt A. Vorotnikov, who are the right-flank men of restructuring, its organizers. And their numbers are growing in intensive pursuit of this effort, growing under the tireless influence of the exactingness and concern shown by senior leaders and political organs.

I once had occasion to observe the work of a blacksmith. It was a fascinating picture. He drew a forging out of the fire and began to hammer it, first on one side, then on the other, his sharp eye judging where and how to touch it up so as to obtain the required item. It turned out that the blacksmith saw this was not the right material--neither a horseshoe nor a durable cramp iron would come of it. He doesn't stand on ceremony with such "trash" and immediately removed it from the anvil. He knew it would be going against his conscience and damage his business.

Well, a man's character also goes through a forging, figuratively speaking, only at a different forge--the forge of life. By way of example, let's say we want to have a good commander. Here too it is very important to begin with high-quality material. But what often happens in real life? How do higher military institutions which train troop commanders get their recruits? Let us agree that here we see such criteria dominate as high grades on school certificates and exams and good references. It is as if our selection of future officers is taking place in the dark.

Let's take an example--the Alma-Ata Officer Cadet Academy imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev. It's a young institution--a little over 16 years old. Yet it has already built up tradition by virtue of the prestige its many graduates have won for it. But such successes should not prevent us from addressing the defects of cadet selection--of which there are many. At times it is clear during initial course work that an imperfect selection system has resulted in many cadets failing to apply themselves in their work. You won't get a Petruk from their ranks--or the likes of V. Litvintsev, P. Koptiyukh or some of our other finer commanders. They don't have the mettle, the character that is so vital.

It has long been acknowledged that the selection of academy entrants requires a scientific approach, a careful, thorough screening to identify the most deserving candidates. But little is being done in this regard. You are accepted if you submit an application. All you have to do is pass the entrance examinations. But it shouldn't be this way. Entrance to the academy, in my view, should be granted chiefly to those who have completed a duty school, who have been selected at the work site well in advance by authorities of military higher educational institutions, who stand apart from their contemporaries by virtue of their political-ideological qualities, their organizational abilities and their moral and physical toughness.

Analysis confirms that the more reliable officers come from among individuals who entered the academy not from the classroom, but from the ranks of the army after completing a "working" university.

Here I can envision some objection--what age are we talking about? Can we "raise" army commanders? I think we can. And the "adulthood," if we can express it that way, of the cadet corps would only have a positive effect on the quality of personnel, in my view. Fewer mistakes would be made in the entrance process. I feel that time and the increased demands of military service dictate an urgent need for restructuring in this area.

Today we cannot brush aside the problem we so clearly see when we study our young officer corps. Whereas there weren't enough positions in the post-war years to provide promotion for all capable commanders and political workers (so great was the "competition" among them for advancement), we often see a different picture taking shape today--there are vacant positions for advancement, and it is sometimes necessary to promote young officers who are not yet fully qualified. There is no other way out. The officer is expected to "grow into" the position. Many prove worthy of the trust but there are also quite a few who never exceed "average." Some simply don't last. Without a doubt this is harmful to the cause.

Herein lies the importance of our task--to earnestly get involved in training and preparing our reserves for advancement, to increase the responsibility of each leader for preparing his replacement in the spirit of the provisions of the January Plenum, and to hold strictly accountable those who fail to give promising officers a chance.

Again I think back to Lt Col Petruk. He was promoted and there was never any problem finding a replacement for him. "Select one," he said, offering his

deputy and chief of staff as candidates. "Each one is worthy of it, each one has proved himself over and over again through his actions. I vouch for them as I would for myself."

I also believe that restructuring should apply to certain other views not in conformance with the spirit of the time with regard to personnel selection and placement. How often do we see the following circumstance? There are officers worthy of advancement in the regiment. They are seen and known in the collective. But now someone gets promoted out of the unit and they bring in an individual who was promoted in another unit to fill the vacancy. Then it becomes clear later on that he is not equal to the task. It should hardly be necessary to state what a negative effect this has on the moral climate of the officers in the regiment, how severely this undermines the authority of the regimental commander.

It would of course be incorrect to hold that an individual cannot be promoted "from outside." Here as in any other case we must look at the specific situation. But preference should nonetheless be given to individuals who have proven themselves in the particular unit or district. It must be kept in mind that designating individuals to positions "from afar" can be a handy loophole for all kinds of favoritism. The commander has to look closely at just what the considerations are to justify assignment of one officer or another to his unit from outside.

Much the same problem exists for the military district commander. There is a great desire to entrust a regiment to to a proven, reliable, diligent officer; yet often you get as a replacement someone who is completely unknown. Hasn't the time come for conferring higher rank in such circumstances for regimental commanders and leaders, if only for a trial period? If someone hasn't coped, he doesn't get appointed. Right now we're forced to live with an annoying situation where an individual might not be managing well, but replacing him is a very complicated matter.

Changes must be made here as well, I believe. The plenum stressed that he who is unable to change the situation for the better in his designated area of responsibility has no right to occupy a position of leadership. We cannot sit idly by while a mediocre individual incapable of better performance allows things to deteriorate and sometimes demoralizes the military collective through his actions and behavior. It all begins with the commander.

Work passivity and moral corrosion are also sprouting under certain conditions. Such conditions have arisen in a certain tank regiment, assisted by the "efforts" of its commander, Major V. Finkin. It would seem that the serious breakdown they experienced the year before last in their final inspection should have taught all unit officers a great deal. Inadequate personal preparation was evident among a number of platoon leaders, company and battalion commanders. Regimental staff officers also failed to provide good example. A great deal of time has since gone by and the situation isn't getting any better. We see the same deficiencies and, like before, the complete failure on the part of officers to learn from them.

The military district council should have pointedly brought the issue of conditions in this regiment to the attention of the division commander. In this instance the division commander himself was subject to severe criticism, as were his deputies and the unit (soyedineniye) staff--for inadequate training of commanders in the regiment and for allowing a notorious kind of "cramming" to flourish there in place of training, which precluded stable results.

Of course, it is difficult to teach someone something if the individual isn't willing. We can't help but agree with the division commander here, who rebuked Maj Finkin for this, and entirely justifiably so. But we cannot fail to see something else here as well--the division commander and his staff are training regimental commanders superficially and incapably.

As the party demands, no one--including commanders and leaders of all ranks--lies outside the realm of criticism. And there is no doubt but that such a state of affairs could have been avoided in this instance had the division commander, political department and primary party organization been more exacting. The same conclusion is warranted with respect to officers F. Volkovnitskiy, V. Klusov and M. Berilyuk and their downhill slide.

The commander implements the policies of the Communist Party and the Soviet government. Today this entails, first and foremost, persistence, energy and work accomplishment. It means effecting restructuring.

9768

CSO: 1801/164

NAVAL FORCES

PROBLEMS IN SHORE TRAINING FOR SUBMARINERS NOTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 87 p 2

[Article by Capt 2d Rank A. Kolesnikov, Red Banner Leningrad Naval Base: "An 'Attack' Teaches and Examines. Concerning Some Problems of Base Training of Submariners"]

[Text] Even experienced sonar operator Michman F. Kamenshchikov was unnerved for a moment: a target that had just been detected disappeared. The screen of the sonar set was jammed, and there was noise in the earphones which was very different from the "voice" of the antisubmarine ship. The actions of the "enemy" evidently were not entered in the proposed battle training model. The situation, apparently, puzzled even the commander, Capt 3d Rank V. Marinkin. The officer gave the order to reduce the speed of the submarine to a minimum. Bending over a map, he tried to put himself mentally in the "enemy's" place. The navigator helped in this. The plan of the opposing side was soon unraveled. The antisubmariners had decided to go into a low-depth area of the sea, where maneuvering by the submariners was extremely difficult. They covered their "withdrawal" with active jamming, whose acoustics were also misleading.

"Boatswain," ordered the captain 3d rank, "surface to about . . . meters. Listen to the acoustics on a heading of . . . degrees."

The calculations of the commander of the submarine proved to be accurate: the "enemy" did not think that the submariners would risk making such a maneuver. The submarine was able to get within detection range of the antisubmarine ship, and Michman F. Kamenshchikov did not miss his chance.

The attack was swift. The crew acted with a clearly demonstrated urge to be victorious, which, unfortunately, was not always possible before.

In the past year, the intensity of training of submariners was evaluated frequently only by the number of exercises on sonar training equipment in the

coastal department "Attack." The quality of training has now become the main evaluation criterion. This was prompted by the very modest indications of operational training task fulfillment by certain crews at sea. Although outwardly everything seemed all right: coastal training equipment seemed to be used intensively. But it turned out that in the drive for quantity, quality was forgotten. Exercises were often conducted under oversimplified conditions and in a stereotyped way. One launching of an attack was like another, and they became typical, and therefore uninteresting and not attended by a creative search, intense thought and combat excitement. In the end, some submarine commanders stopped attaching the proper importance to these exercises.

A paradoxical situation developed: the submariners began to neglect opportunities for training on shore that were able to bring both a practical and economic gain. Commanders more frequently began to rely on training at sea. But it is known that training at sea is warranted when the main work is done at the base.

Ultimately, all of this aroused the anxieties of unit command elements and staff officers. The discussion was carried on at a party meeting, and it was distinguished by adherence to principles and specific facts, as is required by life which is moving in common with reconstruction. It became clear that trainers were being utilized passively, that not all of their capabilities were brought to light and that a creative process was not organized around this. The communists decided that the state of affairs had to be changed, beginning with headquarters.

A flagship operational team was created under the command of an experienced submariner, Capt 1st Rank V. Zhilyakov. Its main task was the development of new programs. Flagship specialists Capts 3d Rank I. Ivanov, V. Stolbov and S. Yuferov began to saturate each practical exercise with nonstandard scenarios that required nonstandard thinking. The flagship KBR [ship operational team], trying the new programs on itself, in effect became a unique model for organizational and exercise execution. When such a style of exercises was proposed to ship operational teams, it evoked complications, but also interest. Submarine commanders received the necessary assistance from staff officers, including assistance in the organization of socialist competition according to tasks and norms in crews and between KBR's.

At a monthly summing up of competition results, not only is innovative experience advocated and disseminated, but discussions are held for everyone to hear on shortcomings and ways to eliminate them, and not only is the quality of conducted exercises taken into account, but also the creative contribution made to them. Thus, the KBR under the command of Capt 3d Rank V. Marinkin already occupies first place in this training year for the second time. And most of all because of a creative approach to exercises. Other submarine commanders are adding his experience to their own knowledge, which reflects positively on the quality of base training of seamen.

In our opinion, to activate useful competition now requires thinking about a more effective moral stimulation of competition. For example, we are preparing to make a special challenge prize named after submariners and front

fighters and to award it on a ceremonial occasion in a parade formation of unit personnel. This ceremony would take on a particularly emotional flavor if the competition winners were to receive the prize from the hands, let us say, of Hero of the Soviet Union Capt 1st Rank (Ret) S. Lisin, with whom the submariners maintain continuous contact. This means that what is new in methods for activation of combat training requires taking into account all details and a comprehensive approach.

. . . Receiving the report from the sonar operator that the noise of the torpedo and the ship of the "enemy" had merged, which denoted destruction of the latter, Capt 3d Rank V. Marinkin did not hasten to congratulate the crew. According to his plan, the submariners had to make one more attack.

A new tactical situation lights up on the broad screen of the trainer. In a lower corner of the screen, there is a green silhouette of a submarine standing astern. The skill of a commander in battle avoids a situation that is too acute for him. The skill in an exercise is to make the combat situation more complicated, because this is the only way to become proficient.

13052

CSO: 1801/165

DAMAGE CONTROL ON SUBMARINES STRESSED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Mar 87 p 2

[Article co-authored by Capt 1st Rank Yu. Zotov and V. Prudnikov, Red Banner Northern Fleet: "Combat Training: Potential for Acceleration. Nowhere to Retreat in a Compartment"]

[Text] The nuclear submarine was completing its approach for a torpedo attack when the commander of one of the compartments, Capt 3d Rank V. Fedorov, reported to the control room that a "hole" had been sustained. After an assessment of the "combat damage," the ship commander decided not to stop the attack, and that the "hole" in the hull would be plugged by personnel of the compartment. The seamen, who had already started to fight for the survivability of the ship, knew that they could not expect help from anywhere and that, to the contrary, they were supposed to support the ship in the attack that was under way.

The situation in which the submarine found itself is not unusual in a real combat situation. Thus, in the years of the Great Patriotic War many of our ships frequently had to conduct combat operations and simultaneously eliminate the effects of damage. On 29 April 1943, submarine S-55, commanded by Capt 3d Rank L. Sushkin, launched an attack on an enemy convoy. After penetrating inside perimeter security, it delivered a torpedo attack on two supply ships and sank them, but immediately after this, it was attacked itself. The explosion of the depth charges played havoc with the submarine's stern. Nevertheless, the crew, which was fighting for the life of the ship, was able to ward off the threat. The S-55 returned to its base and, after repairs, in a short time it again headed for enemy lines of communication.

Indeed, in battle a ship is strong not only because of its weapons, but also because of the ability of the crew to employ it effectively in any situation, maintaining the maximum resilience of the ship. This is known very well on any modern submarine. But to know, to understand and to operate are not one and the same thing. With the crew of the ship mentioned earlier, the

convictions did not differ from the facts. And in this case, the emergency alert did not stop the ship from successfully completing its attack. Of course, multiple guarantees of reliability and increased technical capabilities for conducting a fight for survivability that are inherent in modern ship designs also had their effect. However, no matter how far design concepts for ship defense progress, they also advanced in the development of means of delivering effective combat destruction. Therefore, in a real combat situation, the ability of a ship to counteract combat and emergency damage is determined first of all by the level of crew proficiency and by how effectively a crew is able to use skills for fighting destruction, fires and the entry of water.

The compartment in which the main events of such a struggle unfold is not simply a part of the body of the submarine. It is in a special way a solid and united collective of people trained for operations in isolated conditions and who understand the full significance of these operations for the ship. This is why submariners say: there is nowhere to retreat in a compartment. In every compartment, submariners live according to the law: "You yourself perish, but save your comrade."

Just as the strength of a chain is determined by the strength of the weakest link, the readiness of a crew in fighting for survival is judged in this connection by the weakest compartment. It quite apparently follows that there should not be any such compartments. And, first of all, this means that there should not be any poorly trained compartment commanders who are charged with the responsibility of training subordinates to fight for survival and to direct it in an emergency situation. And as practical experience shows, the outcome of a fight in many ways depends on a superior and his ability to mobilize people without the slightest hesitation and doubts about competent and decisive actions.

The whole world's seafaring experience shows: even the most modern emergency rescue systems can prove to be useless if when danger arises immediate energetic measures are not taken to contain it. The ability to get a situation under control before it becomes uncontrollable is elaborated in well thought-out exercises. That is, survival of a ship in battle means, in the first place, training of personnel and their practical skills and psychological readiness to operate selflessly to the end.

At one time on one of the submarines, because of an oversight by specialists, a valve was opened in a high pressure air system. The commander of the compartment, Sr Lt S. Goncharuk, immediately rushed to it. . . . A complicated situation had developed, and the officer was in a difficult position, but the first thing he did as soon as he could was to report immediately to the commander about correcting what had occurred. The very significant episode attests to the fact that a special submariner psychology had already been worked out in the young officer--a very high sense of responsibility for the compartment and for the submarine.

But does every compartment commander possess these qualities? At the present time and on any ship? It is unlikely that a unit commander can be found who is prepared to respond readily in the affirmative. And, indeed, not all ship

commanders. But it should be exactly this way. Especially today. Because a submarine even in port and even in a dock demands of people the highest and continuous readiness to fight for survivability.

It is natural, therefore, that each commander of a compartment in our submarine fleet should be an officer who has good experience in command and that he enjoys authority in a crew. Why then are ship bills on the fight for survivability sometimes made up without taking this not unimportant factor into account? Why is it that sometimes a lieutenant who has just arrived on the boat is assigned to command a compartment?

We will say straight out that it is because emergency or other complicated situations are encountered infrequently and that combat training is training. No one has yet had real damage in training. So, the conviction has taken hold with some commanders that young lieutenants will still be able to learn everything. Moreover, the predominant role in questions of the fight for survivability, after all, falls to specialists of the electromechanical combat unit (BCh-5). They say that it makes no sense for other officers to compete with mechanical engineers.

Yes, BCh-5 specialists, are unbeatable on many specific problems, especially in eliminating the consequences of an accident. But at the moment of an accident, they are not always present at a "hot" spot. That is, it is still up to the commander of a compartment to join the fight for survivability in the first, and frequently the most critical stage. For which he is given appropriate full powers and authority. And the question is how to strengthen this authority with the necessary proficiency. And how to do it quicker. For a shortage of well-trained compartment commanders on submarines is intolerable.

Today, as soon as we begin to talk about accelerating training, then we first mention the logistical base. Only afterwards do we talk about method. Is this accidental? Well, no. For the training base is that which does not lie with commanders, which means that it is easy to cite its shortcomings. And it is method that is on the conscience of commanders in many ways. But it is precisely miscalculations in methods that turn out to be especially significant.

We say that exercises in educational-training complexes (UTK), where any situation can be modeled, are of great use to commanders, petty officers and seamen of emergency parties. But as observations show, UTK capabilities are frequently not used to the fullest. Modern equipment is sometimes used to work out simple tasks following stereotyped patterns. For example, it only took several seconds for compartment commander Lieutenant A. Dubrovskiy, who headed an emergency team of one of the ships, to "close up" a hole. This, of course, alerted the director of the exercise. It turned out that the lieutenant, after completing the preceding tactical problem, together with his subordinates also worked out the principal measures for the following problem, which he had no doubt would be entered.

If that is the way a compartment commander is trained, then how will any other

officer or petty officer operate who takes his place because of circumstances? We had this incident occur. When an emergency alert was declared for training purposes, the superior in the "emergency" compartment was Sr Lt of the Medical Service Yu. Olifir. And the officer was not able to organize the personnel properly to eliminate the "damage." Someone will say, well, what can you expect of a doctor? No, this kind of logic is not acceptable to a submariner. To any ship officer--and first of all to a submarine officer, with all of the demands on him that follow from this. On the whole, this, of course, is a concern of a ship commander (one of many concerns). But specifically, it is the concern of the commander of the electromechanical unit.

Ship regulations stipulate that the instructions of a BCh-5 commander for maintaining a watertight hull, fire safety and the fight for survivability are obligatory on all personnel of combatant units, services and ship commands. In practice, it is sometimes not that simple to put these instructions into effect, inasmuch as the BCh-5 commander is not the chief of those whose work he is organizing. There is quite often a lack of coordination because of this. It is another matter if the BCh-5 commander was also the deputy to the ship commander for the electromechanical unit. In our view, it would be sensible also to broaden the authority of the deputy to the ship commander of the formation for the electromechanical (EMCh) unit and his assistant for survivability.

There was a time when the deputy to a formation commander for EMCh was the immediate chief of all personnel of the formation and when the degree of his influence on the technical condition of the ship and crew readiness to fight for survivability was considerably higher.

We are not talking here about some kind of formal "supplements." But about a redirection of attention to the most important problems in the organization of the professional training of personnel. A secondary attitude toward the preparation of submariners in the fight for survivability is intolerable. And this must be guaranteed organizationally. Perhaps it is expedient today also to resolve that the fight for ship survivability should be identified in training as a separate type of training.

There are also other possibilities here for increasing the role and effectiveness of the work of mechanical engineers. In particular, it is necessary to free BCh-5 commanders from nonproductive work and to give them an opportunity to involve themselves more with personnel. Take, for example, the complex calculations on the unsinkability of submarines. They are being made practically with old methods, on which an enormous amount of time is spent. And what a great help a personal computer would be here to a BCh-5 commander. Or let us consider the development of typical emergency situations. Why perform this development on each ship?

Really, nonproductive work for military seamen is an impermissible luxury today. For, like it or not, not only unresolved questions remain "overboard," but also questions of paramount importance. This means that we must very zealously check on the effectiveness of our labor. Whether this concerns large-scale and problematical aspects, or individual aspects like, for example, the improvement of individual means of defense.

Today, they are generally and on the whole sufficiently reliable and practical. But there is also a potential for their improvement as well. Thus, let us say, it would be desirable in fighting fires to have means that are lighter and in the fight with water, just the opposite, somewhat heavier, and even equip them with an intercom, and compartment commanders, with portable VHF radio sets.

Generally, quite a few questions and problems of a very diverse nature in improving the training of personnel in fighting for the survivability of a ship have piled up.

We will keep in mind: each compartment of a submarine is transformed into a real fortress when the emergency alert signal is given. There should be no weak spots in this fortress.

13051
1801/165

NAVAL FORCES

NAVAL OFFICERS RECEIVE AWARD FOR ARCTIC RESEARCH

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 87 p 2

[Article by Capt Lt (Res) V. Yeliseyev: "Arctic Researchers"]

[Text] For the many years of research conducted in the North Arctic Ocean, a group of naval hydrographers and scientists were awarded the USSR State Prize.

Among the laureates are the former chief of the Main Directorate of Navigation and Oceanography of the USSR Ministry of Defense Admiral (Ret) A. Rassokho, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Rear Admiral A. Sorokin and Capts 1st Rank I. Miroshnikov and N. Timoshenko. They performed important research work in the Arctic. Their work made it possible to determine more accurately the relief of the ocean bottom and to acquire other valuable scientific information. As a result of this, more precise navigational charts were drawn up that are used by our seamen in the higher latitudes.

13052

CSO: 1801/165

REAR SERVICES, DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

REAR SERVICES CONFERENCE HELD

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jun 87 p 5

[Article by Capt 3d Rank A. Tkachev: "Important Tasks of the Rear Services Organs"]

[Text] A conference of leader personnel of the Soviet Armed Forces Rear Services took place. A report was given by the Soviet Deputy Defense Minister and Chief of the Soviet Armed Forces Rear Services, Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Kurkotkin.

The speaker summed up the results of the activity of the rear services organs in the past year, thoroughly analyzed the dynamics of restructuring in the districts and fleets, and defined the primary and long-range tasks of commanders, political organs, and rear services specialists which follow from the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the requirements of directive documents.

The restructuring of unit administration and services and of all activity of the rear services organs, it was stressed in the report, should be directed toward the unconditional ensuring of the high combat readiness of the Armed Forces, toward a growth in the quality and effectiveness of the material and technical support of their daily activity, and toward strengthening law and order and discipline in all elements. The severe winter really checks the readiness of the rear services for the tests of intense cold. Not all garrisons proved to be supplied with heat in proper measure and the immediate rear did not cope with its missions in a combined and efficient manner everywhere. Not only practical conclusions, but also political ones should be drawn from these facts, it was noted at the conference, as is required by the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, "On instances of interruptions in the heat supply for the population of the cities of Gorkiy and Murmansk Oblasts."

The participants in the conference discussed the course of the accomplishment of the recommendations of the Army-Wide Conference on Improving the Living Conditions of the Troops and the Results of the First Stage of the Inspection Competition for the Best Subunit Living Conditions. An exchange of experiences in party-political work on improving rear services support of the troops, making party, Komsomol, and trade union organizations more active in the struggle for economy and thrift, the observance of limit discipline, the development of progressive forms for the organization of labor, and the introduction of new equipment and advanced technology took place.

Taking part in the work of the conference were the deputy chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, Colonel General V. Nechayev, and an executive of the CPSU Central Committee, N. Bay.

6367

CSO: 1801/139

VINOGRADOV DISCUSSES U.S. EXERCISE IN NICARAGUA

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by V. Vinogradov: "They Are Rehearsing Invasion"]

[Text] According to reports from Honduras there, close to the Nicaraguan border, regular maneuvers bearing the code name Ahuas Tara-87 began. American and Honduran units are taking part in it. In the course of the first phase of this militaristic demonstration, the dropping of an airborne assault whose composition included American engineer subunits was accomplished from airplanes of the U.S. Air Force in the department of Paraíso. In particular, they were assigned the mission to rebuild the airfield at the U.S. Air Force Base in (Khamastran) and military facilities in San Lorenzo. In addition, they are laying a new road which will facilitate the transfer of troops to the Nicaraguan border in case of the outbreak of military operations.

We note that American-Honduran maneuvers, Big Pine-87, have also been taking place in Honduras for two weeks already. As a Pentagon representative announced, the more than 3,000 American servicemen taking part in them are working out "combat operations under tropical conditions," and Honduran troops are "becoming acquainted with new military equipment." Here, it should not be forgotten that a powerful American military squadron is also cruising close to Nicaraguan shores.

The increasing militaristic activity of the United States in the region is correctly being evaluated by the government of Nicaragua as evidence of preparations initiated by Washington for direct armed aggression against the republic. According to the words of the Nicaraguan newspaper BARRICADA, the provocative maneuvers of the American militarists are a direct threat to the independence and sovereignty of the country which has been resisting imperialism's undeclared war for several years.

It is no secret that up to now the reliance of the United States on counterrevolutionary rabble, despite the secret delivery of weapons, many millions of dollars in financial support, and the sending of various types of instructors and advisors, has not been crowned with success. The Contra bandit formations which penetrate into Nicaragua invariably receive a crushing rebuff on the part of the Sandinista people's army and volunteers. Evidently, that is why some in the higher echelons of Washington authority would not be against putting the U.S. military machine into operation in order finally to smash the "recalcitrant" country of Sandino. All the more since the plans of the U.S. administration to

ruin the process of democratic transformations in Nicaragua collapsed. The ceremonial signing recently of the constitution, which received the approval of the entire Nicaraguan people, once again showed convincingly that despite all difficulties this country is steadily following the elected course of national rebirth.

An extremely noteworthy article under the title, "Invasion Plan," was published recently by the weekly L.A. WEEKLY which is published in Los Angeles. It told about the secret efforts of the Reagan administration which are directed toward the preparation of aggression against Nicaragua which may be accomplished as early as the beginning of 1987. "The redeployment of some troops which was accomplished on the eve of the outbreak of the Iran scandal," it says in the article, "points precisely to this." Thus, Christmas leave was cancelled for the servicemen of a battalion of one of the infantry divisions. They were hastily transferred from their base in Kansas to Honduras with all their equipment, including tanks. Simultaneously, air support subunits were sent there from Texas. Literally before "Irangate" exploded, reports the L.A. WEEKLY, "unusually big military maneuvers which simulate the invasion of Nicaragua were conducted at Fort Benning (Georgia) with the participation of the 82d Airborne Division, Rangers, and naval forces."

Thus, the present Washington administration as formerly intends to conduct a policy in relation to Nicaragua which ignores the elementary standards of international law. Here is how Senator L. Weicker defined this course: "It is time to put an end to this wild policy. We are achieving the overthrow by force of a government which we recognize."

Actually, there should be no place for such a "wild policy" in the international arena.

6367

CSO: 1801/139

OLIYNIK ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, GUERILLA DEFECTIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by Major A. Oliynik, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent in Kabul: "In the Interests of the Afghan People"]

In these January days democratic Afghanistan is living a complicated, tense life, filled both with bright hopes and with difficulties. The hopes are tied principally to the critical stage in the history of the Afghan people--the implementation of a policy of national reconciliation. The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the revolutionary government and all true patriots are devoting their energies to the establishment of peace and tranquility.

Judging by reports of the mass media and conversations with representatives of various elements of the population, the policy on national harmony is receiving the support of a majority of Afghans, including those who, because of various circumstances, find themselves outside the country. Meetings, gatherings and jirgas [tribal councils] continue to be held in many areas of the country in support of national reconciliation. Many religious figures have announced their approval of this humane policy. Representatives of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment and members of the higher council of mullahs of the DRA have spoke in 40 mosques in Kabul. They explained the essence of the policy of reconciliation to believers and called citizens to aggressive action in putting it into practice.

Yesterday I visited the Salam-Khan palace, where the Higher Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, created in the National Front, works. Information on a national scale flows here to the supreme coordinating agency on reconciliation. Here are just several events that have occurred during the last few days.

HERAT PROVINCE. The return home and the move to the side of national authority by representatives of the Timur tribe continues. The first large

detachment of this tribe arrived in the province on 15 January, numbering 2,000 persons and headed by Abdul Gani. These people declared their rejection of armed struggle and their readiness to ensure peace and tranquility in 110 kishlaks of the Kushk uyezd [district]. Refugees greeted with great joy a Soviet motor transport convoy that delivered 360 tons of wheat to the tribe yesterday.

FARYAB PROVINCE. Five hundred members of an armed group ceased resistance and returned to a peaceful life in the Shirinagab uyezd. Members of the reconciliation commission of the province are helping the former dushman to return to a peaceful life.

SAMANGAN PROVINCE. Fourteen leaders of armed groups expressed a readiness to adopt military truce conditions. The extraordinary commission on reconciliation, jointly with representatives of the armed groups, have begun to develop mutually acceptable conditions.

KUNAR PROVINCE. Seventy-six families have returned from Pakistan to the Pasha and Sarkan uyezds. According to their statements, refugees in Pakistan camps look with hope on the policy of reconciliation. But Pakistan authorities and the leaders of the counterrevolution are hindering the return of the people to their country. About 30,000 refugees have gathered in the area of the Pakistan city of Parachinar. However, specially created dushman detachments are holding them under close guard.

. . . In the Salam-Khan palace, I met with Evaz Murad, Kunduz province chairman of the extraordinary commission on reconciliation.

"We have worn ourselves out with suffering for peace and tranquility," said comrade Murad. "We are weary from the war and deprivation. Every second flat cake and every second Afghan is used for the war. National reconciliation responds to the aspirations of all working people. . ."

That is the way those speak in Afghanistan who really want to stop the fratricidal war. There is a different reaction in the camp of the counterrevolution. As indicated by foreign radio voices, a meeting in Peshawar of seven counterrevolutionary parties rejected the policy of national reconciliation, and a declaration was made on the continuation of "the holy war."

The situation in the Afghan border areas these days has been getting hotter once again. The DRA Ministry of Internal Affairs has acquainted me with the facts about truce violations. Formations of bands of Ahmad Shah Masoud in Pandzhsher, of Dzhelaluddin in Paktia Province and of Mullah Malanga to the south of Afghanistan continued their firing on cities and peaceful kishlaks and road sabotage. The bands even tried to capture the Barikot border compound. The towns of Charikar, Bahran, Kandahar and many others have been subjected periodically to rocket and mortar firings. The objective of these terrorist acts is apparent: to provoke Afghan army units to open fire and to wreck the process of national reconciliation.

The government of the DRA is doing everything it can in this complicated situation to restore peace and tranquility in the country. Tomorrow, residents of Kabul in different parts of the city will come out to greet the first groups of refugees who are returning to their native country from abroad, and numerous national reconciliation meetings will be held.

13052

CSO: 1801/160

AFGHANISTAN

BORDER TROOPS ENGAGE AFGHAN INSURGENTS

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 April 87 p 6

[Article by V. Okulov, special correspondent of PRAVDA, reporting from the Kabul-Moskovskiy settlement: "Detail of Soviet Border Troops Engages Dushman in Combat on Green Plateau near Pyandzh." First paragraph is in boldface]

[Text] THESE PLACES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED TWICE IN RECENT TASS ANNOUNCEMENTS. RECENTLY, DUSHMAN HAVE TWICE PERPETRATED PROVOCATIONS ON THE SOVIET-AFGHAN BORDER. ON 8 MARCH THEY FIRED ON THE BORDER SETTLEMENT OF PYANDZH. ON THE NIGHT OF 9 APRIL, THEY ATTACKED SOVIET BORDER TROOPS TO THE EAST OF THE SETTLEMENT OF MOSKOVSKIY ON A PLATEAU HEMMED IN BY MOUNTAINS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE RIVER.

From the neat settlement of Moskovskiy, dotted with plane trees, in the south of Kulyab. Oblast, the place where the events took place can be reached only by helicopter at this time of the year.

I imagine that, having received an order to guard the state border, the reinforced detail in two "whirlybirds," under the command of officer Anatoliy Melnik, flew along the border line that follows the Pyandzh riverbed. The river runs along a broad sandy valley, breaking up into numerous branches. Afterwards the helicopters drew into a canyon. And soon they landed near one of the markers.

The border troops positioned themselves near a stream in a gorge that was grown over with bushes and elms. There was a grassy plateau close by, and the Afghan kishlak Punimur was on the other side of the river. It was known that dushman were dropping in on the kishlak and, what is more, they were robbing the impoverished population. Helicopters were supposed to remove the detail from the plateau on 8 April. But the weather got bad, and the helicopters did not arrive.

Night fell. The border troops set out guard posts. At one of them, Private Aleksey Kurkin concealed himself behind a huge boulder.

It was raining. . . At 0.30, Private Aleksandr Artamonov communicated to his comrades by radio from his post: "Everything is in order here."

But within a quarter of an hour, a burst of automatic weapons fire flashed from the boulder where Kurkin had concealed himself: the soldier was firing almost point blank at attacking dushman. He was able to shoot off a red flare--the signal "To battle!" The flare illuminated the bandits who were moving along a path. A grenade launcher fired on the border troops from above. Kurkin responded with bursts, giving his comrades an opportunity to get out from under enemy fire. They were on him from all sides.

He had only a few minutes to live. . .

It would become known afterwards that the dushman gangs of Nurali and Mir Muhammad came to the river before daybreak and crossed the Pyandzh on rafts. Nurali's group, after crossing the river near Punimur, came out right at the post at the boulder. Mir Muhammad, making a deep bypassing movement, set up a grenade launcher and machine guns at a dominating height and began his attack from above.

The "initiator" of this venture, as it turned out, was Mir Muhammad, a cousin and assistant to Engineer Bashir, who was the leader of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" [IPA] band that was operating in the province of Takhar. Bashir, who approved the plan, outfitted Mir Muhammad with a caravan of weapons and ammunition.

I saw a portrait of Bashir in a Peshawar journal: the touched-up 30-year-old handsome man gazed arrogantly from the glossy page. The son of a bai [wealthy landowner], he completed the first year of the Kabul polytechnical institute some time ago. Then he organized a band and distinguished himself by his refined cruelty. However, the band was routed. Bashir fled to Pakistan. He spent a year there in special training. He returned with the authority of a "provincial fuhrer" of the IPA. On the day the government of the DRA announced the decision concerning a unilateral cease-fire, he deliberately fired rockets on the volost center--his native kishlak of Chakhi-Ab.

The bloody exploits of Engineer Bashir were related to us by Captain Muhammad Evaz, the commander of a company of volost militia--tsarandoy. But this was then in Afghanistan, in the kishlak of Chakhi-Ab, 10 days after the night when bandits blessed by Bashir conducted an attack on the Soviet border troops.

From the commanding heights, dushman machine guns were firing into the brushwood, grenades were hurling downward and the border troops were responding with dense fire.

These bursts also reached Aleksandr Artamonov who was defending the gorge from the opposite side. He could not join his comrades: there was a curtain of solid fire, such that if you lift up, they fire instantly. He understood that he was cut off from his comrades. And the dushman were coming up on Artamonov from the rear. He counted five of them from the flashes of the grenade launchers and rockets. Three of them approached within about 5

meters. One of them saw the border guard. Aleksandr shot him point blank. Two of them were confused, and, taking advantage of this, Artamonov jumped to the other side of the crest.

Thinking that he was fleeing down the slope, these two dashed after him. But the border guard lay down then and there in the tall grass. As soon as the bandits appeared on the crest, he cut them down with a burst of fire.

The fighting was fierce. The two hours that it thundered in the gorge now seemed like seconds to the soldiers. But the skirmish was still heated up when the death-dealing bullets reached Alyosha Kurkin and Private Ramil Yamilov. . .

The Nurali group started back, not being able to continue battle and remove its dead. Its withdrawal to the other side of the Pyandzh was more of a flight. Mir Muhammad led his men to a crossing where he was provided cover from islands.

When we talked in the Chakhi-Ab kishlak with the prisoners, who were turned over to the local tsarandoy, it was already known that the gang had 14 killed and more than this wounded. Our losses: 2 killed and 3 wounded, 2 slightly.

The dark-bearded prisoner Muhammad Ayozy, a native of the kishlak Gangari-Bala in Badakhshan, sat on a stool in the dingy room of the tsarandoy, asserting that he was forced to join the gang with threats that his family would be slaughtered if he refused. Captain Evaz hemmed skeptically and said that the people's court would try the dushman.

Meanwhile, units of the Afghan army and subunits of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in the DRA intensified their strikes on the Bashir gangs.

We flew with the participants of the recent battle to the plateau at the river Pyandzh. We went to Kurkin's boulder, which was pitted with bullet marks. The detail came with us not only to honor the memory of those who died, but to perform border work.

Private Dmitriy Zemlyanoy told me about Alyosha at Kurkin's boulder:

"He was a comrade who was older than me, and, one could say, a teacher. Indeed, a teacher for all of us. He had already served his second year. Just think, this was his last trip to the border. . ."

"Those who were on their first trip did not do badly either," said the chief of the detachment. "Sasha Artamonov, for example, was in the detachment for only a month, but he operated like an experienced soldier."

. . . We flew from the plateau near Pyandzh. The pair of "whirlybirds" roared upwards, making a turn. The border troop detail, dressed in camouflage clothing, sat on benches and on the floor. The sentry dog Khazar--lying down,

breathing heavily and with his red tongue showing--was used to the roar of the engine.

I look below: crimson patches of tulips are showing clearly through the grass on the shore.

13052

CSO 1801/163

AFGHANISTAN

COURAGE, PROFESSIONALISM OF HELICOPTER PILOT PRAISED

Moscow. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Apr 87 p 2

[Article by Colonel Yu. Malakhov: "Twenty Seconds In All That Tested the Fighting Character, Courage and Skill of a Military Pilot"]

[Text] The incident was uncommon. Captain Yevgeniy Smirnov, commander of an Mi-8 helicopter, displayed the highest courage, professional skill and exceptional composure, landing his helicopter with dead engines in the mountains, at an altitude of more than 2,000 meters. The landing was so successful that the people on board the helicopter were not even aware of the mortal danger they had just been through. . .

At first glance, the flight task of the crew on 30 November 1986 was not very complicated--land a group of Afghan soldiers on one of the alpine landing sites. The task was common. But is it possible to consider the landing of a helicopter in the mountains common when it hangs by one wheel on the ledge of a site, while the other wheels hang over a precipice and there are walls of stone right next to the revolving blades of the main and tail rotors? These spots in the mountains are called "airfields for eagles," and helicopter pilots work from them like mine-layers--without a right to make a mistake.

When nearing the ground in such flights, the airmen open the movable blisters in order to see the ground better through the cloud of dust raised by the rotors, and the flight engineer jumps to the ground and seemingly directs the combat vehicle to a sole support point, reporting to the crew commander: "Touchdown! The left wheel is on the ground, the nose wheel is on the ground and the right wheel is hanging over the precipice." Moreover, through the clatter of the rotor, the flight engineer listens intently to the mountains--a burst of dushman machinegun fire could thunder at any moment. And this is the way it is almost every time!

After landing the group, Captain Smirnov flew out and reported about his trip when he was on the return heading to his home base.

But at that moment, a command came over the radio: head into the area of a rocky ravine and from there fly personnel out. Captain Smirnov turned his helicopter to the indicated heading. The crew intensified its vigilance--the dimensions of the landing site should be marked with signal fires. The mountains literally swallowed up the combat helicopter. They are all around: there are rocky ledges ahead and along the flight path, to the sides and below, and the snowy peaks come together above. The flight along mountain gorges is indescribably beautiful, but there is no time to admire the pictures of nature--the slightest inaccuracy in the techniques of piloting could turn into a calamity.

"Commander, there are people below!" Senior Lieutenant Valeriy Popik, the pilot-navigator, clinged to the right blister.

"What are the conditions?"

"Solid rocks. Only hovering is possible. . ."

Captain Smirnov found a support point for the helicopter--he touched down with the forward wheel onto a flat boulder, and the main landing gear was suspended in the air.

The loading lasted no more than 10 minutes, and all of this time, which seemed endless, Captain Smirnov and Senior Lieutenant Popik pressed the helicopter against the rock, keeping it in a motionless position and preventing any move to break away or to slip down the slope.

Lieutenant Anatoliy Gorshkov, the flight engineer, glanced around the helicopter for the last time, quickly jumped into the compartment and closed the entry door. Looking over the Afghan soldiers taken on board, he helped them settle in as comfortably as possible and reported to the crew commander: "Everything is normal on board; you can take off!"

At first the helicopter began to circle slowly into the sky, and then it flew faster and faster. The speed and the altitude began to increase gradually, and Captain Smirnov put the helicopter into a sharp left turn--a low fuel reserve urged them to return home as quickly as possible. The helicopter crew members did not hear the sounds of shots. But they suddenly felt as if someone had thrown a handful of pebbles against the fuselage.

Silence suddenly struck the crew--the roar of the turbine stopped, and only the blades continued to turn from inertia. The helicopter started to drop its nose and began to fall to the right. The instruments did not lie; they were giving accurate information--both engines were put out of commission.

Smirnov instantly sized up the situation: the altitude was about 2,500 meters; there were mountains below and people on board. Except for the crew members, no one else had parachutes.

The helicopter was heading downward, level flight speed was falling, and the main rotor rpm's reached the "low gas" mark. This was a critical moment, and Capt Yevgeniy Smirnov made a singularly competent decision.

At that moment, he told himself only one word: "Nado!" [I must]. He had prepared for this "nado" for his entire life: even when he enrolled in the Syzran Higher Military Aviation Pilot School imeni 60th Anniversary of the USSR, and, later, when he served in units of the Air Force, he became proficient in different types of helicopters in which he flew more than 3,000 hours altogether. The enormous sky of our motherland from the Far East to the westernmost borders knows the hand of the military pilot Captain Smirnov. And now the sky of Afghanistan was severely testing his courage, professional skill and dedication to duty. And he, a Soviet officer-internationalist, passed this test brilliantly.

. . . When he sensed that the helicopter was responding to deflection of the control surfaces, he immediately tried to stop the spontaneous drop of the helicopter--the lowering of the nose and the fall to the right. The helicopter responded to the will of the pilot, and it did not go into a spin. "Good"--Smirnov inwardly praised the behavior of his helicopter. "Now we will smoothly go into a descent on autorotation. . ." The main rotor increased its frequency of revolutions somewhat, and it added the necessary rpm's for a stable descent.

But the vertical speed of descent was still greater than normal. The mountains were swiftly coming closer. The steep slopes concealed the horizon, and Smirnov, no matter how he strained his eyes, did not see even a little level patch.

How do you land a helicopter on a sharply slanting slope in order to avoid hitting the rocks and to prevent the helicopter from turning over? Helicopter crews do not work out such exercises in practical operational training, and there is no description of actions for such situations in special literature. But accumulated experience suggested to Smirnov that there is a way out: movement of the control surfaces and the "pitch-throttle" lever had to be calculated so that the energy of the powered rotor was utilized with a watchmaker's precision, and landing had to be on the first try. There would be no second chance.

Captain Smirnov saw what looked like a landing area out front and to the left. He turned the helicopter. He felt that thrust had decreased. But the pilot was able to prevent a drop of the multi-ton vehicle owing to the creation of an air cushion at the very surface of the ground--an instant before impact. Captain Smirnov pulled the collective "pitch-throttle" control lever sharply back, like a paratrooper pulling the rear straps of a parachute before hitting the ground. The effect is the same--the helicopter touched the ground more softly. Twenty seconds had passed from the moment the engines stopped.

If it were not for the impartial recording of the parameters of this flight by reliable instruments of objective control, I would not have believed that a person could accomplish so much work in this number of seconds.

When the propeller blades drooped, an Afghan interpreter made his way into the compartment, and, excited, he put his hand over his heart and said: "Thank you, comrade!" And never in Captain Smirnov's life was there a higher reward than the really very simple two words uttered in a ringing silence.

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CSO: 1801/163

AFGHANISTAN

DRA COLLABORATOR'S CAREER AS REBEL BAND CHIEF

Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 87 p 3

[Article by M. Kozhukhov, special correspondent, under the rubric "Kabul On the Line": "On the Edge of a Dagger. . . Walked the Young Afghan Shirgol for Two Years, Carrying Out a Special Task of DRA Security Agencies"]

[Text] Whatever you say, appearances are deceiving. Is this likable, smiling fellow in a brand new jacket really Dervish? Even the massive leather sword belt and the sling with a copper buckle--attributes that are especially stylish among people of his circle--also seemed on him to be for hire. But his hands give him away: they are well-groomed, not exposed to work. . .

The following is stated about this person in a file compiled several years back in the DRA MGB directorate for the struggle with banditry. Real name--Shirgol. Date of birth--1961. Pseudonym--Dervish (wandering monk). Party affiliation--member of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan (IPA). Present position--commander of a front with dispositions in the rayon of Dzhabal-us-Siradzha, Parvan Province. Number of persons directly subordinate to him in the band--300. Has heavy weapons, including "surface-to-surface" rockets, and also surface-to-air missile complexes. An implacable enemy of national authority and distinguished by particular cruelty.

"How did everything start, Shirgol? How did the revolution offend you personally?"

"Well, it did not offend me with anything in particular. We thought that Hafizulla Amin, who seized power in Kabul, was in fact the revolution. They were hanging mullahs--a revolution. They were starting courses for women in mosques to eliminate illiteracy--also a revolution. . . And then at that time a man from the IPA also appeared in the kishlak, and he said: "We have to change everything. Conduct our own Islamic just revolution." Moreover, he brought money--more than a million. Of course, this appealed to everyone. . .

Shirgol was taught the military profession by Misok, a major in the Pakistan army, in a training camp for dushmans in the north of Afghanistan. It was he who singled out Shirgol in front of the formation when Shirgol became proficient in all the types of weapons that were in the camp and could hit almost any target from 50 paces without deliberate aiming. Everyone must learn like Shirgol, the major said, and handed him 2,000 afghanis. Thus the 17-year old Shirgol became Dervish, and this is the way his climb up the ladder of the dushman hierarchy began, which lasted almost 8 years.

"Is it true that there is a "price-list" of payments in the IPA for all types of combat actions?"

"This, of course, is an exaggeration. But when we shot up a tank with grenade launchers, we were given 300,000 afghanis and three dozen Kalashnikov automatic weapons, and I was promoted. I personally did not take prisoners, but I know: if you were able to deliver a Soviet officer to Pakistan, they gave you a million afghanis, 30 automatic weapons and 4 heavy weapon pieces to choose. If it is a soldier, then they gave you 2,000 afghanis, a dozen automatic weapons and coupons for getting new clothes--for the entire band."

"And so, did you like this kind of life?"

"Money will not buy you even one peaceful night, when you can stretch out under a warm blanket and sleep until morning, not fearing an attack. Indeed, where can you go with this money? I do not dream about my own shop [dukan] like many do. I fought while there was fighting. Then I began to understand: none of this will lead to anything good; we will only kill each other off."

As you know, the human heart is a mystery. No one can ever know exactly what Shirgol was thinking at that time and what conclusions he had reached in the long arguments with himself before he took up pen and paper. I asked him whether some incident or encounter compelled him to write that letter. He replied that it was neither one nor the other. Then what? No matter what, a fact is a fact: the file of Shirgol, at that time already a commander of a dushman front, had a letter signed by him proposing cooperation. He could not bring himself to wait for an answer to the letter.

But after a certain time, one note appeared in his file which, like the first, was taken to Kabul by a reliable person. This note completely puzzled officials in Afghan security agencies. Affirming his promise to stop the war on territory under his authority, Shirgol requested that he be sent books also, in addition to ammunition and weapons, that write about what communism is.

"I, of course, understood very little in those books. But, it seems, I understood the main thing: all people should be equal. He who does not work does not eat. . . Why did I ask for these books? It simply became interesting: What kind of people are these who are so powerful? Why does half the world support them? I did not become a communist right after this. But I was definitely disenchanted with the dushman. . .

When he began to bring order to "his own" territory, Pakistan sensed that

something was not quite right. Salim, one of the deputies of Gulbeddin, the leader of the IPA, summoned Shirgol to Peshawar. "What has happened, Dervish? Perhaps, you sold yourself to the Reds?" Shirgol had prepared himself for this conversation: his "sincere" indignation had been rehearsed the day before. "I want to be the chief in Parvan Province," he answered Salim. "And I will become chief." Apparently Salim liked this answer.

"How did you explain to your own people why they suddenly had to fight with other bands?"

"First, skirmishes between detachments of different bands were not uncommon. Secondly, some of them thought just like I. It was they who were fulfilling assignments for national authorities, about which I presently have no right to talk. And those who thought differently. . . In general, it happened that some of them were killed in combat. And some of them did not suspect a thing and continued to fight. Well, maybe not as fanatically as before. But when the government made the announcement about national reconciliation, then all the more hardly anyone rushed into battle."

"And all the same, the IPA rejected a truce: those who are under the command of Gulbeddin, and this is thousands of persons, increased the intensity of combat actions. Why did Gulbeddin even refuse to consider the proposal to create a coalition government?"

"Gulbeddin is a religious fanatic. He declared that he will continue the war until the entire Muslim world is united under the Green banner of Islam. No matter about Kabul! Recently he even appointed a person close to him as the Bokhara emir: seizing Soviet Central Asia, he says, is not far away. . . But, in the meantime, he is sending millions of afghanis to the bands. But people have to discard thoughts about home from their heads. He declared his own "truce": if there was an order earlier to kill everybody who cooperated with the national authorities, then now the aim is different. Get to everyone everywhere. Win them over to our side. Compel them to work in the name of the 'holy war with the unfaithful.' And do not go easy on those who want to lay down their arms. . ."

"What will happen in the future, Shirgol?"

"I have fought for 8 years, and I cannot do anything else; perhaps I will ask to go into the army. Of course, there is much that I will have to get used to, and life will be completely different. No matter: I am prepared to begin at the beginning."

. . . Tomorrow, Shirgol's file will be turned over to the archives. Yesterday, he and 50 or so people loyal to him came to Kabul. They waited for this day almost 2 years: the right to return had to be earned. Shirgol walked the edge of a dagger for 2 years, pretending that he was the very same Dervish, a "fighter for the faith and an implacable enemy of the revolution." He participated in representative gatherings of dushmans on the territory of

Pakistan. He received foreign advisers, and recorded their addresses "for the future": Paris, Frankfurt-on-Main and Er-Riyad.

Today, he finally received the right to become that which he actually is. A human being who was seized by his conscience and will to erase his past.

13052

CSO: 1801/160

MOLDAVIAN PARTY ON WORK WITH DRA VETERANS

Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 29 Mar 87 p 1

[Article under the rubric "In the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee": "Constant Care and Attention For Our Internationalist Servicemen"]

[Text] The Secretariat of the Moldavian CP Central Committee has attached exceptional political-ideological, moral and social significance to problems related to the fulfillment of international duties on the part of soldiers called to active military service. In this regard it has examined the question "On Working With Individuals Who Have Fulfilled Their International Duties in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA)."

The adopted decree notes that Moldavian party, soviet and operational agencies are constantly attending to the needs and requirements of discharged Afghanistan veterans and the families of DRA casualties, and are rendering them all possible assistance in providing the full and timely benefits specified in appropriate party and government decrees.

The absolute majority of Soviet Army DRA veterans returned to their collectives after discharge to the reserves and today provide an example of conscientious attitudes towards their work, having become true assistants to party and Komsomol organizations and military commissariats in providing political-ideological education to our youth. They make appearances at plants and factories, at institutions, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and at educational establishments. They actively participate in the work of military-patriotic associations, universities for future servicemen and DOSAAF schools, in recruiting young people for service in the USSR Armed Forces, in conducting conscription day activities, military sports competition and the competitive military games "Summer Lightning" and "Eaglet." Many former servicemen are active members of volunteer squads and operational Komsomol detachments; many look after "difficult" teenagers.

Appointment of discharged DRA veterans to the leadership of public organizations plays an important role in enhancing their social prestige and authority, as does propaganda disseminating through the mass media examples of the valor, courage and bravery they have shown.

Organizational measures are being effected more actively encouraging former DRA veterans to enter social and political life. To this end a meeting of the Moldavian Komsomol Central Committee was conducted in January 1987 in which more than 400 youth who returned from service took part, representing all cities and rayons.

Coordination centers are being established in Moldavia for working with young servicemen demobilized from the ranks of the Soviet Armed Forces--military reservist councils and clubs for DRA veterans. These are operating in the cities of Tiraspol and Beltsy, and in Oktyabrskiy and Sovetskiy rayons of Kishinev. DRA veterans meet with members of raykom bureaus and party and Komsomol gorkom members in many cities and rayons of the republic.

Perpetuation of the memory of fallen DRA veterans constitutes a significant source of moral education. At Komsomol initiative a great effort is taking place to list fallen servicemen among the personnel of Komsomol and youth labor collectives and student detachments, and to rename schools, streets, pioneer detachments and volunteer squads in their honor. Salaries paid to their personal accounts are transferred annually to the Soviet Peace Fund. Competitive track and field events for awards bearing the names of fallen servicemen are conducted in many cities and rayons.

At the same time the decree notes that the Moldavian party organization has not yet taken sufficient advantage of the great resources it has at its disposal for further developing work with DRA veterans. The organization of this work is not always dealt with wholeheartedly, with the attention it deserves. Instances of a red-tape, bureaucratic approach still persist with regard to resolving issues related to improving the living conditions of some DRA veterans. Left to their own resources, some veterans fail to distinguish themselves in social activity; they do not get keyed in properly to participation in bringing up our youth. In some areas their services are not effectively enlisted in the fight against such negative phenomena as ruffian behavior and abuse of drugs and alcohol. Opportunities are not pursued vigorously enough in using the mass media to educate our younger generation with respect to illustrious exploits from the lives of our DRA veterans.

The Moldavian CP Central Committee has charged party gorkoms and raykoms, the Moldavian Trade-Union Council, the ministries of Public Health, Social Security, Commerce, and Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the Moldavian Consumers' Union, Moldavian DOSAAF and Komsomol central committees, and ispolkoms of city and rayon soviets of people's deputies with examining the problems of further improving work with those who have fulfilled their international duty in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It has committed them to developing specific, practical measures at joint agency sessions for improving such work and to implementing these measures.

The task has been set to organize matters so that DRA veterans and members of their families are surrounded by attention and given every support, so that their political, moral and combat toughness serves the interests of the socialist Motherland and further solidifies friendship among peoples.

9768
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SOLDIERS' PROBLEMS ON RETURNING FROM DRA RECOUNTED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 87 p 6

[Article by P. Studenikin reporting from Moscow: "A Time of Testing. After Traveling the Roads of Afghanistan, They Returned Home With an Acute Sense of Responsibility for the Cause and Concerns of the Motherland." First two paragraphs are in boldface]

[Text] I COULD HAVE MET WITH EACH OF THEM THERE, IN AFGHANISTAN. IT DID NOT HAPPEN: A DAY BEFORE MY ARRIVAL AT THE UNIT, SENIOR LIEUTENANT GEORGIY KUDINOV WAS WOUNDED FOR THE SECOND OR EVEN THE THIRD TIME AND WAS SENT TO THE HOSPITAL (HE WILL LATER RETURN TO THE RANKS, AND HE WILL FIGHT HONORABLY, BUT THE MAIN TIME OF TESTING FOR HIM WILL COME LATER, WHEN HE RETURNS TO HIS MOTHERLAND AND IS AMONG HIS OWN PEOPLE).

SEVERAL YEARS LATER I LEARN THE DETAILS ABOUT HOW TODAY'S LIEUTENANT OF MILITIA AND THE THEN PARATROOPER MASTER SERGEANT YURIY ZOBNIN CARRIED HIS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BATTALION COMMANDER OUT FROM UNDER FIRE, WHILE FIRING BACK AT THE DUSHMAN ; AND HOW A METAL WORKER OF ONE OF MOSCOW'S MACHINE BUILDING PLANTS, BORIS SOLOMENTSEV, A FORMER BMD DRIVER-MECHANIC, AND CREW FOUGHT ALL NIGHT IN A BURNING VEHICLE TO WARD OFF THE ENEMY.

It was here that I learned about Captain G. Kudinov's heroic deed in a conversation with Lieutenant General F. Voynov, the chief of the political section of the Military Academy of Armored Troops. "Visit us. We have such interesting people studying here," Feodosiy Ivanovich said. Imagine, at a critical moment a decorated commander who was himself wounded more than once covered a live grenade with his own body a second before it exploded, saving the life of a soldier. . ."

Certainly many beautiful words can be found to describe the officer's heroic deed, but he himself found simpler and more precise words: "If you choose the military profession, you have to be ready for anything. . ."

. . . Capt G. Kudinov and I come from the same city. From Frunze. He did not choose the military profession; he considers that it was destined for him from birth. His father, Ivan Nikolayevich, a military pilot, died in the performance of military duties and, after school, Georgiy entered a flight school, but he did not pass the medical board. Then, not hesitating a moment, he went into tanks. (You see, you do not have to crawl; you can fly along the ground. . .) He volunteered for Afghanistan and there, again voluntarily, he retrained from tanks into reconnaissance.

He participated in battles in Pandzhsher--"Afghan hands" know what this means. In a word, he had to face death more than once. And he did not suspect that the main test still awaited him, after which a second Red Star would be added to the medal "For Combat Services" and the Order of the Red Star. But the problem is not with decorations.

After Afghanistan, Capt G. Kudinov took over a training company. He taught his subordinates properly; that is, everything that a soldier needed to know for real combat, and, should the situation arise, how to save a friend, even if threatened by death.

One day a scheduled exercise was being held in throwing hand grenades from a tank turret. The commander took up his position in the hatchway--it was a way of telling his subordinates: "Don't worry! You see, I have confidence in you. . . "

Private M. Perevezentsev was in the adjacent hatch. The commander gave the tactical problem: "The tank is put out of action, the automatic weapon is broken, everyone was killed and three dushman are running toward a tank. Throw grenades!"

And here the irreparable occurred: Mikhail pulled the cotter pin out, raised his arm to throw, but his arm got snagged on the hatch locking device, and the grenade fell to the feet. Kudinov heard the dry click of the fuse and the sound of the grenade, and he commanded: "Leave the vehicle!"--and he automatically jumped out of the turret. But. . . And then he jumped back into the tank, pushed the grenade further away with his foot, shoved the soldier behind the weapon's breach piece and covered the soldier with his body. An explosion. The caustic odor and heat of TNT. . .

What happened then? In the hospital, they wanted to take off a leg; Surgeon Nikolay Dmitriyevich Kholodov felt sorry for Kudinov's youth: he gave him alcohol (it was not possible to operate under anesthesia) and compelled him to yell louder. . . He extracted 64 splinters, and it was not possible to extract 12 others. . . Within 3 months, Georgiy was again conducting exercises in his company, and that same year he passed an examination to enter the armored academy.

Georgiy Kudinov receives many letters. A letter from Mikhail Perevezentsev: "Now I know why they give military personnel decorations in peacetime. . ." And here is a letter from Natasha Skobenko from Ordzhonikidze: "I congratulate you that you have twice passed the examination for the title of human being. I have a younger brother. He has sworn to be like you in every way!"

Georgiy Kudinov does not regret that he chose the kind of profession that at any moment could demand that he give up his life for our happiness.

But I now recall a not very pleasant meeting with so-called "metal workers," to which Militia Lieutenant Yuriy Zobnin, a former paratrooper master sergeant, brought me, and I also recall the malicious and cynical words at that meeting that burned the soul: "And what about Afghanistan?! They go there to get their ticket punched, pick up odds and ends, and if everything goes well, pin a little decoration on the chest. . ."

No, these insulting words did not upset Yuriy Zobnin, although had he heard them several years back, when he just returned from Afghanistan, this dim-witted chap would not escape a severe "parental strap." And he did not then begin to talk about Afghanistan and his combat friends--the situation was not what it is today. I would like to do this for him.

. . . Their battallion was then returning from Pandzhsher. (This was the first raid in Pandzhsher--in the possessions of Ahmad Shah). Stretched out in a long chain, they were moving along a narrow and remote gorge: the reconnaissance party was followed by the command element, which was followed by the entire battallion. Master Sergeant Yuriy Zobnin was walking with the battalion commander. The dushman hit the reconnaissance party, when it began to get dark in the gorge.

"We hurried ahead to support the reconnaissance party," Yuriy relates. "We came out around a bend, and then and there we spotted dushman, about 200 meters in front of us--they were going down a slope in order to kill the reconnaissance party. The battalion commander opened fire, and a machine gun immediately fired on us. The battalion commander was wounded seriously, and he fell. . ."

The master sergeant dragged the commander under cover and rushed forward--under machinegun fire. He lost his best friend here, Pavel Yelin. The battle continued all night and the following day. There were wounded. . . Helicopters were called in to evacuate them. A place suitable for a landing was found about 2 kilometers away. The master sergeant carried the wounded commander these two miles, returning the dushman fire.

"And do you know how difficult it was for us to get accustomed to a peaceful life? There, in combat, it is immediately apparent who is who. There, white was white, and black was black. There you knew very well that only the enemy would be in wait for you, and not your own kind. You were firmly confident that: they would not get you into trouble, but that if necessary, they would give up their lives for you, just as you would throw yourself in front of a bullet to save your people," Yuriy said. "How we waited to return to our Motherland! I do not even want to remember it now, but, you see, there was happiness mixed with pain and sorrow. The newspapers wrote then about the avenues of friendship that our boys were putting down in Afghanistan, and about how our physicians were delivering the babies of Afghan women and how the Afghan army was successfully defeating the dushman gangs. . . And it was

painful to hear: a fellow who lost a leg in combat was refused an apartment on the first floor; doctors groundlessly changed the disability status of another. . . Indeed, what is there to say; even now there are those among the likes of us who do not know that special privileges have been set up for us--for immediate assignment of apartments and non-competitive enrollment in training establishments and for holiday leave at a convenient time. . . I know young men for whom everything did not go well after Afghanistan. It is true that now a lot of things have changed for the better. . ."

For Yuriy, "post-Afghan life" turned out normally: within 2 years he received the first officer rank, then he graduated from militia school with a diploma with honors, and this year he submitted documents for enrollment in the MVD academy. . . He received an apartment, and the family is awaiting a second child.

"But the main thing," Yu. Zobnin continues his story, "is that the period of getting used to a peaceful life is over. Our 'lost generation' finally has been recognized. Both the komsomol and the schools. It seems that we who had gone through such a serious school are needed by society. For example, a club of soldier-internationalists was created at the komsomol raykom of our Frunze rayon. We are working with youth. Very much has to be done here.

"I have the occasion to meet both with the ["lyubers"] and the ["metallists"] and with drug addicts," Yuriy said. "It is a stupendous spiritual futility: some consider that force is everything, and they flex and flex their muscles; for others, rock music replaces everything, and for the third. . . You start to talk to them about our history--and it is a complete failure. There is not a thing they know about the Kulikovo and Stalingrad battles. But I like going to schools very much--to the 5th through 7th grades. . . And not long ago I was invited to a school in the town of Vysokovsk near Moscow, where Pasha Yelin studied--the one who died on reconnaissance. It turns out that the year Pasha died the 4th "B" class adopted his name, and this year the class, which is now the 10th "B" class, returned the name once more to the 4th class. You know, it appears that a militiaman is not supposed to cry, but here I could not hold back. . . All of these years the young people have been visiting Pasha's mother, Margarita Pavlovna; they help her with everything, and they maintain Pasha's grave in perfect order. . . This is all so humanly pure and good!

Yura Zobnin rode from the editorial office to the children in Kindergarten No 50, for which his directorate does volunteer work, but I want to turn to the fate of yet another "Afghan returnee"--Boris Solomentsev.

I have already written about Boris Solomentsev: how with a broken arm in combat he loaded automatic weapon magazines for his friends; how after he was back home, the doctors gave him a second grouping disability at first, and then changed it to a third grouping, and, later, after numerous formalities, they declared that they did not consider him disabled. It is a good thing that the men from the brigade at the machine building plant, from where Boris was called into the army, accepted him into the brigade as a full member, despite the fact that his arm functioned poorly.

The editorial office received many angry comments on that short article. I want to cite some of them in order that you feel keenly the real attitude of the people toward the sons who serve in Afghanistan.

"When it is necessary to come to the defense of the motherland, what high-sounding words are spoken! But the gratitude of one's country, the obligation of the country and the thankfulness of the country cannot be entrusted to heartless bureaucrats," writes N. Zvolev, a participant of the Great Patriotic War.

"I served in Afghanistan for two years. Then I got very ill and was discharged from the ranks of the Soviet Army. I arrived home and underwent treatment, but the indifference was astonishing. Once, a doctor even told me: 'I did not send you to Afghanistan.' Yu. Vetokhin, Gurzuf."

"I am an invalid of the Great Patriotic War, second group, and a former navigator on the Leningrad front. I read about Boris Solomentsev with tears. Indeed, what kind of people are they who are so callous toward an injured man! A wounded soldier is a person who has lost the hope of a normal existence. The callousness of those around him is salt on his wounds. F. Gareyev. City of Birsik."

And here is a letter from today's mail about callousness. "My son honorably and conscientiously performed his duty in Afghanistan, and he returned home last year," writes N. Safiullin from Kazan. "Four months have already gone by, but the Kirov rayvoyenkomat [rayon military commissariat] has not yet issued him his military record. And, you see, my son has to continue his studies at the institute, but he cannot do this without a military record."

It is painful to read such things. And insulting. The moreso because I was able to see in Afghanistan with what, I would say, sacrifice and selflessness our military medical personnel are fighting to save the lives of the wounded.

Everything turned out happily in the story of Boris Solomentsev: his disability rating has been restored, and he is registered with a hospital for personnel disabled in the Great Patriotic War. But I would like to complete the story about him with yet another episode from his combat biography, which I learned quite recently in Tashkent from Major Sergey Guryev. Guryev was a doctor in the battalion in which Solomentsev served as a BMD mechanic-driver.

On that day the officers were returning to their position on his vehicle, together with the company commander, Senior Lieutenant A. Khmelem. And they fell into an ambush. The road was on an incline and, from above, dushmans headed their heavy truck toward them. There was no place to turn. The collision threw the BMD into the side of the road, and it stalled out. Boris' face was seriously injured. And afterwards they were attacked. When it got dark, the enemy approached stealthily and tossed bottles with an incendiary mixture at the vehicle. A fire broke out in the BMD: some grabbed for fire extinguishers, and others returned fire. They were able to put the fire out, but the battle continued until morning. . . That is the way they fought.

Yes, these men did not waver at a time of testing, and they courageously

confronted danger face-to-face. They fulfilled their military duty to the end, and today they still continue to fulfill the duties of a citizen.

And we are obligated every day and every hour to fulfill our humane duty to them.

13052

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AFGHANISTAN

VETERANS' CLUB FOUNDED AT MEDICAL INSTITUTE

Ashkhabad KOMSOMOLETS TURKMENISTANA in Russian 27 Jan 87 p 2

[Article by A. Rakhmanov, chairman of the Club of Young Soldier Reservists of the TGMI [Turkmenistan State Medical Institute]: "'Club of Young Soldier Reservists'. Plaque With This Inscription Quite Recently Appeared on the Door of Room No 13 of the Seventh Training Building of the Medical Institute, and the Club Itself Has Been in Existence for Only Several Months"]

[Text] When we are requested to share our experience in creating a club and are asked: "How did you start?"--we answer honestly: "With a discotheque!"

One day we went with friends to the discotheque of the locomotive depot. We stood and looked around. . . There were many young people, but there was continuous music and nowhere to sit, talk and think. We went up to the disk jockey and introduced ourselves: "We are students of the medical institute, and we have served in Afghanistan. Would you like us to appear before you?"

This was our first presentation. We ourselves did not expect to be listened to like this and be asked so many questions! Afterwards there was a meeting with the first-year students of the institute, where we talked about what service in the army was like, how one had to prepare for it and what to study. And again there were many questions from the boys who were to serve in the army.

These meetings gave us a lot as well. We saw with what attention and trust they were listening to us, and we sensed our own responsibility. It was then that the idea came up to assemble all of the young men who had performed their international duty in Afghanistan and to organize a club of young soldier reservists. The party committee of the institute and the komsomol committee reacted to our idea with great understanding, and we were helped by the military department to check student lists for all soldier reservists.

The basic backbone of the club consisted of young men who had performed

international duty in the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. At that time, the club's propaganda team of seven persons departed for Baharden as part of the "Lenin Relay" propaganda train of the LKSMT [Lenin Young Communist League of Turkmenistan] Central Committee, and it addressed students of the agricultural institute and the department of foreign languages of the medical institute. A stand-- "Each generation has its own battlefields"--was set up in the clubroom.

We soon understood that appearances before an audience are only a part of that great military work in which the club should be engaged. We have 67 persons in the club. First year students A. Akhmuradov, M. Yarogyshev, B. Purliyev and others who did not serve in the army also became members. Judging by everything, club membership will continue to increase. This is a real force, and all that is needed is to find an application for it and to be able to organize the work correctly. How is this to be done?

This is precisely what the discussion was about at the last conference in Minsk on the military-patriotic education of young soldiers in the reserves. This kind of meeting was being held for the first time, and many questions were resolved there. It was memorable both for its excellent organization and the theme of the speeches and the heated arguments. There was talk about what soldiers in the reserves could do to place military-patriotic work in the country on a proper level.

It happened that we, representatives of Turkmenia, had to blush there when Marshal of Aviation I. I. Pustyga said in his address that a majority of the recruits from Turkmenia do not know the assembly of an automatic weapon and simple drill training procedures, and that they become proficient in military service skills slowly because of a poor knowledge of the Russian language.

I did not plan to speak in Minsk, but after these words I sent a note to the presidium with a request that I be permitted to speak. I was very upset. I spoke about how we, young soldiers of the reserves, should do everything possible to correct the situation, and that we are ready to do this, but that we do not know how and where to start. The work is new, not only in our vuz, and up to the present there has been no experience in other clubs in the country or recommendations for methodical elaborations. In my presentation, I asked each of the speakers to give the number of his room where he lives, I gave mine, and invited them to talk a bit. The young men came by, and I myself dropped in on them; at times we talked the whole night through. We recalled Afghanistan, but we thought more about how we were to arrange work concerning military-patriotic education of the youth, taking our experiences and capabilities into account.

We arrived from Minsk, assembled the members of the club and told them about the conference. The club is comprised of young men with very diverse military specialties. We thought about how to convey our own experience to those who are preparing for service in the army, to teach them how to overcome the first difficulties and to get accustomed to new conditions and relationships. We decided to organize study groups in schools like "Young Rifleman" and "Young Paratrooper" and to assist teachers in initial military training. We are also

thinking about patronage for juveniles who have been placed on a control roster for minors.

We have many plans. Now we are engaged in immediate furnishing of the clubroom, because it is the club's face, the visiting card. We want to do it in such a way that on the first visit, the young people become interested in our stands, photographs and displays, and this means in our work as well.

We have many books about Afghanistan, the Great Patriotic War and army service that were donated to us by veterans, writers and poets. We brought many such gifts from Minsk. We found addresses of students of the medical institute who are now serving in the ranks of the Soviet Army. The main thing is that a beginning has been made. Letters are addressed to the club from students from Chardzhou and Nebit Dag with requests to share experiences and to explain how to begin. Our assistants, students Gulnar Annatulayeva and Maya Baygayeva are responsible for correspondence.

. . . We bring everyone who first comes to the club to a symbolic eternal flame. A red lamp mounted in a star is lit, and it illuminates the words: "A minute of silence. . . And life is endless." No one remains indifferent to such a ritual. This is the main thing. Active work with people in inculcating love for their country and in perpetuating the memory of those who gave their lives for it does not tolerate those who are indifferent. And we await those for whom the motto of the club of young soldiers is dear: "You can also remain a soldier in the reserves!"

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